

DRAFT DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION COURSE OUTLINE: SPRING 2024

GRST 423 (TOPICS IN GREEK AND ROMAN SOCIAL ECONOMIC HISTORY: ANCIENT ENVIRONMENTS)

Instructors:

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Official Course Description (GRST 423)

Topics will reflect developments in current research.

Course Objectives

Ecocriticism is a 20th century approach that allows us to think about the relationships between texts and environment. From the perspective of the ancient Mediterranean world, ecocriticism has provided ways to analyze how individuals engaged with nature and the “environment.” While a large proportion of these relationships are navigated through ancient texts, we are now turning towards material culture as a further means to understand these viewpoints. By visiting select sites in the ancient Mediterranean and analyzing their material remains we can begin to understand how the ancients engaged with their “environment” and in turn contributed to economic decision-making.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and develop an appreciation for landscape and environment in the ancient world based on evidence that exists in modern contexts
2. Think critically about how scholars have traditionally approached the environment and how this may contribute to economic decision-making in select ancient Mediterranean cultures.
3. Learn how to fine tune our own modern perceptions about nature, environment, human, non-human against those of the ancients
4. Develop an appreciation for reading and understanding scholarly literature

Prerequisites: No prerequisites required

Grading (Weighting)

Daily Questions	45%
3 submissions @ 15% each	
Field Notebooks	20%
2 submissions	
Photo Essays	35%
2 submissions	

Please consult Plagiarism section below and in the calendar. It is unlikely that outside written sources will be necessary for your answers, but in the event, any are used, they must be properly cited.

*It is **not** essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole*

There is no final examination.

Grading System

The following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Departments of Geography as well as Classics and Religion:

A+	100 – 96%	A	95 – 90%	A-	89 – 85%
B+	84 – 80%	B	79 – 75%	B-	74 – 70%
C+	69 – 65%	C	64 – 60%	C-	59 – 55%
D+	54 – 53%	D	52 – 50%	F	Under 50%

Course Format

This is an intensive off-campus field course that consists of a series of learning modules where you will learn theory and undertake experiential learning exercises each day with an assignment to be completed each evening.

A separate packing list will be posted

Learning Resources

Materials will be posted to Microsoft *Teams*

Learning Technologies and Requirements

Students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- *A computer, phone and/or iPad/Tablet with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;*
- *A current and updated web browser;*
- *Current antivirus and/or firewall software **enabled**.*

Flexible Grade Option

(CG Grade) <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html> Additional Course Information