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Class of 2020  
Prof. Timothy Howe  
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*Humanistic Archaeology in the Ancient Mediterranean*

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## **Description**

The purpose of this major is to study the field of archaeology with a specific focus on how ancient humans, as we encounter them in both text and material remains, have impacted their environment. This major solely focuses on the Mediterranean region of the world and serves only to analyze the effects of ancient peoples. The Humanistic Archaeology major will be text and material culture based, in order to analyze how humans are shaping their world. Humanistic Archaeology serves to answer the question of what it meant to be human at a certain point in time. In order to understand this subject, I will need to learn about the historical background of the Ancient Mediterranean civilizations, specifically the Romans and the Greeks. Also, I will need to develop a thorough understanding of the ancient texts, so that I can understand the Ancient people as they presented themselves. Furthermore, I will work to cultivate the skills of practical archaeology, along with critical analysis. Through investigation of the historical context, literary legacy, physical modifications, and cultural systems of the Ancient Mediterranean people, I will attempt to answer this question.

Further questions to be explored, include:

1. How do material things inform culture?
2. How does material culture affect humans?
3. How does the material culture reflect back on the society which created it?
4. How is the image of society that people portray in their literary works informed by archaeological evidence?
5. In what ways do the literary and physical evidence work together to provide a well rounded account of an area's history?

## **Rationale**

I believe this independent major will be integral in my further learning as it will combine various disciplines to create a focus on an area of study currently lacking at St. Olaf. St. Olaf currently offers neither an archaeology major nor a geology major. As a Classics major, I am exposed to learning about ancient peoples and their society through the lens of language. However, I want to expand this learning and be able to include more of the material culture which is an integral part to understanding ancient societies. The way to study the material culture is through archaeology, but I am specifically interested in humanistic archaeology, or how humans, through their societal and belief systems, have impacted their environment. Studying archaeology,

specifically through the opportunities that I have been lucky enough to experience, such as the internship in Turkey, truly encapsulate the global perspective of St. Olaf. Also, archaeology provides another, broader way of studying humans and their society, across time and space. There are a fair number of classes at St. Olaf, offered through different departments, which can work together to create a Humanistic Archaeology major. History classes will provide me with a necessary historical background, Classics courses will provide me with a literary background, Archaeology and Environmental Studies classes will provide me with a material based background, and other courses, such as Philosophy, will provide me with an insight into human thinking and value systems which would prevail through humanity's way of treating the environment. The breadth and intersection of these areas truly emphasize the benefits of a liberal arts education and the way in which various departments can be integrated to expand my knowledge on an interesting course of study.

The time I spent in Turkey this summer working on an Archaeological site really provided the motivation for this major. However, I have always been interested in how humans interact with their environment. When I applied to St. Olaf, I originally thought I was going to be an Environmental Studies major. I was a member of the Environmental Conversations program and I have wanted to take more Environmental Studies courses purely for fun. Going back even further, I have had a rock collection since I was in elementary school. I always loved, and I still do love, going out and finding rocks. Once I was a little older, I began trying to identify various rock types in order to learn more about them and where they came from. Early on in my first semester on campus, I realized that I wanted to be a Classics major. I was immediately enraptured by the Latin language and the culture of the Romans. As I continued my studies, I was continuously intrigued by the literature of antiquity, specifically what it could tell us about the people which created it. My love for rocks and Classics converges in Archaeology, where I can study material evidence to learn more about the history of an area.

Going forward, this individual major will also help with my plans after graduation. I currently intend to attend Graduate school in the field of Classics, which includes linguistics, history, and archaeology. In the long term, I would love to be a professor and continue to participate in archaeological digs over the summer. Creating this major and completing my capstone will provide me with the opportunity to go more in depth in the field of archaeology, as well as provide a necessary foundation for my further graduate school work. Also, as a faculty member I will be aiding students as they construct their own knowledge, and this major and senior project will help me to construct my knowledge. Finally, creating this archaeology major in addition to the Classics major introduces a physical component to my education. It will help me to tie the physical evidence in with the literary evidence in order to attempt to piece together a well rounded view of the historical narrative.

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## **Courses:**

### **Historical Background on the Ancient Mediterranean**

These courses provide the basic background in Ancient Mediterranean history. This background will place the archaeological work in context and help with analyses of certain evidence. These classes will also establish insight into the Ancient way of thinking prevalent in this region, as well as how their societies worked.

#### **HIST 204: Ancient Rome** (Spring 2018)

This class introduced the basics of Ancient Roman History, starting the Etruscans and covering through the Roman Republic and Empire.

#### **Hist 302: Macedon Before Alexander the Great** (Fall 2019)

The Macedon History seminar provides historical context for the Graeco-Macedonian world in an earlier historical period which I have not previously studied. This seminar expanded my knowledge base temporally as well as geographically, and provided me the opportunity to research Greek inscriptions.

#### **HIST 303: Julio-Claudian Rome** (Fall 2018)

This class expanded on the learning from HIST 204, while focusing more narrowly on a specific period of Roman history. Also, this class introduced various research methods and delved into analyzing both literary and material sources.

#### **CLASS 396: Directed Undergraduate Research** (Spring 2020)

The Classics Department's Directed Undergraduate Research will allow me to explore a topic in antiquity through Classical research. This research project will allow me to expand on the humanistic aspect of my humanistic archaeology major.

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### **Human Interaction with the Environment**

These courses provide the groundwork for studying the interconnectedness of humans with their environment. This relationship is an integral lens through which I will conduct my archaeological research, and these classes will provide insight into how humans can impact their environment, and what the various effects may be. They also introduce how to study the environment, and how environments function naturally. While most of these classes focus on the modern day connection, through careful study and evaluation the basic principles can be applied to Ancient peoples and how they impacted their own environments.

#### **ENVST 137: Intro to Environmental Studies** (Interim 2017)

This class established the basic concepts of environmental studies and introduced the process of investigating global issues.

#### **PHIL 257: Environmental Ethics** (Spring 2019)

This course will discuss the ethics behind valuing nature and the environment. It will help to go more in depth with why and in what ways people care for the environment.

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### **Archaeological Research and Methods**

These courses allow for the opportunity to both learn and practice the methods of archaeology. They cover not just the actual digging techniques, but also the ethical questions and various theories prevalent in modern scholarship.

#### **CLASS 253: Classical studies in Italy** (Interim 2018)

This course provided background both on Roman history and archaeological sites. A fair amount of our time was spent at various archaeological sites, learning about history specifically through the material remains. This taught the practical applications of physically identifying various components of an archaeological site, as well as familiarity with various aspects common in Mediterranean excavations.

#### **ID 294: Archaeological Internship in Turkey** (Summer 2018)

This internship created the opportunity for hands-on learning about archaeological methods, as well as insight into the workings of an archaeological site. I learned the diverse strategies of archaeology, including how to build an argument utilizing the evidence from the site. Also, this internship supplies practice in identifying various structures and artifacts found within the mediterranean world.

#### **Independent Research: Roman Religion** (Interim 2019)

This Independent Research, done in collaboration with Professor Howe, will focus on the various Roman religions prominent within Classical Rome. This investigation into the different practices which flourished in Rome will involve a study into both the texts and the material culture.

#### **HIST 396: Archaeological Research Methods** (Spring 2019)

This course will provide a research opportunity to gain further experience with analyzing, synthesizing, and writing about archaeological evidence. It also discusses the theories concerning archaeology that are on the forefront of scholarly debates.

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### **Insight into Human Values and Actions**

These courses introduce another perspective through which to consider Ancient Mediterranean people. Considering the motivations and values of these people can provide key insight into their actions, and why they might have done certain things. Understanding their value system or cultural pressures can also help me to understand how they considered nature and their environment, which would impact how they treated it.

#### **SOAN 128: Intro to Cultural Anthropology** (Spring 2017)

This class introduced the basics of Cultural Anthropology, and therefore the way in which people study various other cultures.

#### **ECON 113: Capitalism** (Interim 2020)

The economics course provides insight into how people and societies function. As a part of this course we read historical readings on economics and gained an understanding of how economic systems developed over time.

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## Possible Capstone Projects

1. A look into the relationship between the religions of Ancient Mediterranean people, for example those practicing some form of nature worship, and their treatment of the environment.

This project would integrate each section of my major in analyzing the way Ancient Romans interacted with their material world in a religious context. The historical background will be imperative in understanding and incorporating the context for the material culture and the world in which the Romans were living when they modified their land. The courses covering human interaction with their environment and human values and actions will introduce the aspect of how humans value the environment and what that ends up meaning for the way that influence their mindset on physical spaces. The actual classes focusing on archaeological methods and research will provide the experience and techniques for conducting archaeological research.

This final project would be done as a paper, with a presentational aspect. My experience excavating in Turkey would help provide some of the groundwork of archaeological evidence. Especially when evaluating how religious groups modified their environment for their practices, and one way of looking at these modifications is use of water. For example, when I was excavating this past summer my unit partner and I discovered a Byzantine Baptisterion in the Christian area of our site. This discovery, combined with further data gathered this upcoming summer, will contribute to this senior capstone project. However, the project would encapsulate more aspects, in addition to my work in Antiochia. The final version would include not only the archaeological aspect but also the literature aspect in order to attempt to understand the full picture of the impact of these peoples' religious practices on their physical environment. My work on campus may include a comparative aspect, which would look at other sites, and will include extensive literary and religious research.

2. An analysis of an archaeological site utilizing GIS software to generate a map recreating the site and how humans modified their landscape. This capstone project may also take the form of a creating new software, which will help to analyze and compute archaeological data.

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## Web Portfolio

Tabs:

- Introduction: a brief description of my major. This will include a summary of my senior integrative project and field experience
- Senior Integrative Project: This tab will have the information from my senior project, including the project itself.
- Bibliography: This tab will have the bibliography of works used throughout my major
- Course Work: This section will talk about the courses I included in the major, the rationale for choosing the courses, and how they contribute to my major goals. I will also incorporate the work that I have completed in these courses, which will track my progress throughout my major.
- Relevant Experiences: This tab will include my research blogs from my Turkey internship, coursework from other classes, and other work that ties in to my major.

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## Consultations:

### Librarian

Librarian: Ken Johnson

Meeting Date: 12/10/2018

Ken and I primarily talked about different databases and resources to use for archaeological research. I had not heard of most of them before, since most of my previous research has been with literature based evidence. The main sources that Ken told me about are the Brill New Pauly set that focuses both on the Classical Mediterranean and the traditions that it created which are still present, and L'Annee Philologique, which is the database for the historical aspect of Classics. Some other databases worth using are the ATLA Religion Database, JSTOR, WorldCat, and ProQuest Research Library. However, most of the history databases will not be the most helpful to me because they do not include the ancient sources I would need. Finally, Carleton has a geology department, and so if I want sources on geology it would be beneficial for me to check on Catalyst and see what the Carleton library has available.

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### Peer Review Session

Dec. 17, 2018

My peer review session included feedback from Carrie Sayre and Clara Gambill. They both provided useful and critical feedback on my major. Their main feedback was that I should add a short description about each of my courses, which is feedback I also received in my Final Proposal review but had not had time to do yet. Carrie also suggested that I go a little bit more in

depth with my second capstone proposal. To address this, I added another sentence. I chose not to add more since I am almost positive I will be completing the first capstone option, and I have described that option in greater detail. Carrie also suggested that I talk about rocks less in my Rationale section, but I do really like rocks and I think that my affinity for rocks does play into my interest in archaeology, so I left the part about rocks in but I tried to make it flow a little bit better so it stuck out less.

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### **Faculty Consultation**

I have not yet had the chance to meet with other Faculty to consult about my individual major, and due to the nature of Interim study abroad trips, I will not be able to meet with other faculty until second semester. However, my advisor has suggested a couple of different professors for me to consult with, and so my plan moving forward into second semester is to meet with them and get their input. These professors include: Anne Walter, Kiara Jargenson, and Professor Helms. Professor Walter teaches a course in Morocco which focuses on water and touches on the social, historical, political, and economic aspects of water. Walter's input will be especially valuable for my capstone project, which will focus on water and how religious use of water led to modifications of ancient peoples' environment. Professor Jargenson is both an environmental studies and religion professor, and thus will provide integral insight into religions interacting with their environment. Finally, Professor Helms works on the Pompeii graffiti project and is familiar with epigraphical practices and will introduce a slightly different aspect of archaeology and studying the physical space of ancient peoples.

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### **Other Courses and Experience**

#### **Completing Classics Major with Latin as a primary language**

- By graduation I will have taken a total of 8 semesters of Latin
- By graduation I will have taken a total of 5 semesters of Ancient Greek
- For the Classics major, I also took a course on Greek and Roman mythology. This course covered the main myths and legends of Greek and Roman mythology, and served as an introduction to the way in which Classical people viewed their religions and the impact it had on their everyday lives.

#### **Executive Officer and Founding Member of Archaeology club**

- Together with some other students who participated in the archaeological excavation in Turkey this past summer, I helped to create St. Olaf's archaeology club which became an official club fall of 2018.
- As a founding member and Executive officer, I helped to write the constitution and really figure out what archaeology club should be.

- Since starting, we have implemented weekly dinner meetings and we put on an Indiana Jones event night for the whole campus to attend.

#### **Online Orator for Society for Ancient History**

- As the first Online Orator for Society for Ancient History, I created the social media accounts for the club.
- I now maintain and cultivate the public image of the club and help with advertising by posting about upcoming events.

#### **Prytanis & Grammateus for Eta Sigma Phi**

- In order to be an officer, I first have to be an active member in this prestigious Classics honor society, which includes attending weekly Classics conversation table.
- I am responsible for sending out weekly emails, and I help with arranging speakers for the weekly Classics conversation table.
- I will also be very hands on in planning the Annual Classics Convention which will be hosted by St. Olaf in Spring semester 2019.

#### **Environmental Conversations**

- As a first year, I participated in the Environmental Conversations program. Within this conversation program, I took both my First Year Writing and my First Year Religion classes with an environmental focus. I also took Introduction to Environmental Studies over interim my first year. This conversation program gave me a space to start thinking about the environment through other contexts, and introduced the multifaceted way of which human interaction with the environment can be studied.