

Objectives of the Course

The primary objective of the Sacred Sites in Antiquity course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient sacred spaces, their historical development, and their cultural and religious significance. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the course aims to explore how these sites functioned as centers of worship, social interaction, and political power in the ancient world. Students will develop the ability to analyze ancient texts and archaeological evidence, identify the architectural and ritualistic characteristics of sacred spaces, and understand their impact on the social and cultural life of ancient civilizations. The course also aims to raise awareness of the importance of preserving these sites as part of the shared cultural heritage of humanity. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with critical thinking and research skills that will enable them to engage with ancient sacred spaces from a scholarly and practical perspective.

Course Contents

Sacred Sites in Antiquity course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the religious centers of the ancient world and their historical, cultural, and architectural significance. The course will cover sacred sites in Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Aegean, and the Roman world, focusing on their roles in religious rituals, architectural features, and social functions. In the first part of the course, the concept of sacred space will be introduced, followed by a discussion of the origins and historical development of sacred sites. Major temples and religious complexes in different regions will be examined in detail. Notable examples include Göbeklitepe, Didyma, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Yazılıkaya at Hattusa, the Ziggurat of Ur, and the Oracle of Delphi. Through ancient written sources and archaeological evidence, students will gain insights into the religious ceremonies, sacrificial rituals, and festivals conducted in these sacred spaces. The course will also analyze the influence of sacred sites on political, economic, and cultural life in antiquity. In the latter part of the course, new approaches in archaeological research, the use of digital technologies, and strategies for preserving these sites as cultural heritage in modern times will be explored. Field trips and project-based activities will allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge to practical experiences. This course adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, integrating archaeology, art history, and ancient history, enabling students to develop a deeper understanding of the ancient world and its sacred spaces.

Recommended or Required Reading

In this course, students will explore various books, articles, and digital resources to gain a deeper understanding of ancient sacred spaces. Among the essential books is Greek Religion: Archaic and Classical by Walter Burkert, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the rituals and sacred spaces of Ancient Greece. Colin Renfrew's The Archaeology of Cult: The Sanctuary at Phylakopi offers an in-depth examination of the archaeological findings related to sacred sites. For sacred spaces in Mesopotamia, The Excavations at Dura-Europos by Carl H. Kraeling and Robert M. Adams presents detailed studies of this significant religious center. Martin Verhoeven's The Many Dimensions of Sacred Space in the Near East explores the multifaceted nature of sacred spaces in the Near East through an interdisciplinary perspective. Paul Zanker's The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus focuses on the relationship between sacred sites and political propaganda during the Roman period. The course will also include selected academic articles. Richard Mellor's The Concept of the Sacred in Roman Imperial Cult (Journal of Roman Studies) discusses the notion of sacredness within the Roman Imperial cult. Emily Vermeule's Aspects of Cult Practice in Prehistoric Greece (American Journal of Archaeology) explores the cultic practices in prehistoric Greece. Additionally, Sevgi Özdöl's article Sacred Sites in Ancient Anatolia: Architectural and Functional Studies offers a comprehensive overview of the architectural features of sacred sites in Anatolia. Digital resources will play a significant role in supporting the course. The Perseus Digital Library provides access to ancient texts and archaeological data. The ArchaeoTopos Database of Heidelberg University offers detailed archaeological records of ancient sacred sites, while the British Museum Collections Online presents a digital catalog of ancient artifacts.

Planned Learning Activities and Teaching Methods

The planned learning activities and teaching methods aim to provide students with theoretical knowledge and reinforce it through practical activities. The course will utilize the lecture method to present the conceptual framework of theoretical topics in detail. The question-and-answer technique will encourage active participation from students, enabling them to gain a deeper perspective on the subjects. Group work will allow students to collaborate on specific topics, enhancing their research and discussion skills. Practical activities, including field trips and project-based work, will play a significant role in the learning process. Field trips will offer students the opportunity to observe ancient sacred sites in their actual settings, enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge in practice. Project work will help students develop skills in research, analysis, and presentation. All these activities are designed to ensure that students gain a comprehensive understanding of the key topics of the course and improve their critical thinking abilities.

Recommended Optional Programme Components

In this course, students are encouraged to combine theoretical knowledge with field experience. Therefore, they are advised to conduct independent research outside the classroom and follow academic articles and recent archaeological reports. Watching documentaries and visiting museums related to ancient sacred sites will enhance their visual and practical learning processes. The use of digital tools is also recommended. Particularly, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software and 3D modeling programs can be utilized to visualize archaeological data, helping students learn how to apply technology in academic studies. Active participation in class discussions is essential for making the course more interactive and engaging.

Instructor's Assistants

No auxiliary staff

Presentation Of Course

face to face in a classroom environment

Dersi Veren Öğretim Elemanları

Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Ömer Uzunel

Program Outcomes

1. Explain the historical development and functions of sacred sites in antiquity.
2. Analyze and compare the architectural features of sacred sites from different regions.
3. Evaluate the social and cultural significance of sacred sites using ancient written sources and archaeological evidence.
4. Interpret the impact of rituals and ceremonies on social life in ancient sacred spaces.

Order	Preparation	Info Laboratory	Teaching Methods	Theoretical	Practise
1			Lecture, Discussion	The course will be introduced and basic concepts will be emphasized. Definitions of the concepts of "sacred space" and "sacredness" and the cultural and religious contexts of sacred sites will be discussed.	
2			Narration, discussion	The historical development of sacred sites and early examples will be examined. It will focus on how and under what conditions the first sacred sites emerged.	
3			Narration, discussion	An introduction will be made to the sacred sites in Anatolia, and especially the sacred places that emerged from the Neolithic Period onwards will be evaluated. Important centers such as Göbeklitepe and Çatalhöyük will be discussed.	
4			Narration, discussion	The Hittite Period sacred sites will be emphasized. The ritual spaces in Yazılıkaya and Alacahöyük will be analyzed in detail.	
5			Narration, discussion	Sacred sites in ancient Greece will be examined. Important temples such as the Oracle of Delphi and the Temple of Olympia and their social roles will be discussed.	
6			Narration, discussion	The sacred sites in the Aegean Region will be discussed. The Temple of Apollo in Didyma and the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus will be evaluated in terms of architecture and rituals.	
7			Narration, discussion	Sacred areas and Ziggurats in Mesopotamia will be examined. The functions of these areas will be discussed using the example of the Ziggurat of Ur.	
8				Midterm Exam	
9			Narration, discussion	Sacred places in Egypt will be discussed. The ritualistic functions of the Karnak and Luxor temple complexes and the pyramids will be emphasized.	
10			Narration, discussion	The sacred sites of the Roman Period will be examined. The sacred sites that developed under the influence of the Roman Imperial cult and the political roles of these sites will be discussed.	
11			Narration, discussion	Religious ceremonies and rituals will be discussed. Sacrificial rituals, festivals and other practices performed in sacred places will be explained in detail.	
12			Narration, discussion	The architectural features of sacred places will be emphasized. The common and different aspects of sacred places built in different periods will be compared.	
13			Narration, discussion	The effects of sacred sites on social and economic life will be discussed. The role of these places in trade, politics and social life will be evaluated.	
14			Narration, discussion	New approaches and the use of digital technologies in archaeological research of sacred sites will be emphasized. GIS, 3D modeling and virtual reality applications will be explained with examples.	
15				Final Exam	

Workload

Activities	Number	PLEASE SELECT TWO DISTINCT LANGUAGES
Vize	1	2,00
Final	1	2,00
Ders Öncesi Bireysel Çalışma	14	4,00
Ders Sonrası Bireysel Çalışma	14	4,00
Ev Ödevi	2	4,00
Bütünleme	1	2,00
Teorik Ders Anlatım	14	3,00

Assesments

Activities	Weight (%)
Ara Sınav	40,00
Final	60,00

	P.O. 1	P.O. 2	P.O. 3	P.O. 4	P.O. 5	P.O. 6	P.O. 7	P.O. 8	P.O. 9	P.O. 10	P.O. 11	P.O. 12	P.O. 13	P.O. 14	P.O. 15
L.O. 1															
L.O. 2															
L.O. 3															
L.O. 4															

Table :

P.O. 1 :	Turizmin barışa ve kültürlerarası diyaloga katkılarını, turizm sektörünün işleyişi ve sistem içerisindeki aktörlerin rollerini de göz önüne alarak anlar, analiz eder, sorgular, turizmin toplumlar arasındaki uzlaşma ve anlayışa katkılarını artıracak çözümler üretir
P.O. 2 :	İnanç turizminin turizm sektörü içindeki yerini ve önemini kavrar, bu turizm türünün dinamiklerini makro ve mikro açılardan bütüncül bir bakış açısı ile anlar, analiz eder, sorgulayabilir ve sorunların çözümlerine ilişkin karar verebilir.
P.O. 3 :	Küresel ölçekte inanç sistemleri ve inanç temelli insan hareketlerinin tarihsel gelişimini ve işleyişini kavrayarak bu konuları önyargısız, tarafsız, bilimsel ve etik bir bakış açısı ile anlayabilir, analiz edebilir, sorgulayabilir ve sorunların çözümlerine ilişkin karar verebilir.
P.O. 4 :	İnanç turizmi kapsamındaki konulara disiplinler arası bir yaklaşım ve bütüncül bir bakış açısı ile yaklaşarak bu alanda yaşanan gelişmeleri izleyebilir, yorumlayabilir, tartışabilir ve bilimsel çözümler üretebilir.
P.O. 5 :	İnanç sistemlerinin ve turizm sektörünün temelinde yer alan bireysel ilişkilerin, grup ilişkilerinin, toplumsal ilişkilerin ve inanç amaçlı seyahat eden turistlerin davranışlarının temel niteliklerini anlayabilir, kültürel farklılıkları, çatışmaları algılayabilir, yorumlayabilir, karışıklık ve sorunlara hoşgörü ve anlayış çerçevesinde barışçıl ve etik çözümler sunabilir.
P.O. 6 :	Anadolu daki ve dünya üzerindeki farklı inanç sistemlerine ait arkeolojik sitelerin, yapıların, kutsal mekanların, festival ve etkinliklerin, destinasyonların tarihini ve turizm açısından önemini anlayabilir, analiz edebilir ve sürdürülebilirlik kapsamında kültürel ve toplumsal değerlerini sorgulayabilir.
P.O. 7 :	Dinler tarihi üzerine edindiği kapsamlı bilgileri inanç turizminin gelişimi ve turizm sektöründeki paydaşların toplumsal barışa ve kültürlerarası iletişim ve anlayışa katkılarını güçlendirecek yönde kullanabilir, öneriler getirebilir.
P.O. 8 :	İnanç turizminin kendine özgü dinamiklerini ve gerektirdiği hassasiyetleri, bu alanda faaliyet gösteren işletmelerin işleyişlerini makro ve mikro açılardan bütüncül bir bakış açısı ile anlayabilir, analiz edebilir, sorgulayabilir ve sorunların çözümlerine ilişkin karar verebilir.
P.O. 9 :	İnanç turizmi alanında faaliyet gösterecek bir işletmeyi kurabilmek, yürütebilmek ve yönetebilmek için gerekli olan teorik bilgiyi edinir, edindiği bilgileri pratiğe uyarlayabilirve inisiyatif kullanabilir.
P.O. 10 :	Alanıyla ilgili konuları, disiplinler arası bir yaklaşımın getirdiği farklı ve bütüncül bakış açısı ile değerlendirebilir, etik ilkeleri benimseme ve bunu bilimsel duruş ve yaklaşımlarına yansıtarak farklı inanç ve fıkirlere saygılı olur.
P.O. 11 :	Bilgi ve verileri mesleki anlamda tanımlar, analiz eder, sentezler, yorumlar ve değerlendirir.
P.O. 12 :	Bilimsel araştırma yöntemlerini kullanarak alanıyla ilgili bir araştırmayı planlar, yürütür, değerlendirir ve rapor halinde sunar.
P.O. 13 :	Toplumsal ve mesleki etik değerleri kavrar, eleştirel bakış açısıyla değerlendirir ve uygun davranışlar geliştirir.
P.O. 14 :	Edindiği bilgi ve becerileri analiz eder, eleştirel şekilde yorumlar ve değerlendirir.
P.O. 15 :	Alanında uzmanlık gerektiren konularda bir çalışmayı başkalarıyla ve bağımsız olarak etkin bir şekilde yürütür.
L.O. 1 :	Antik dönemde kutsal alanların tarihsel gelişimini ve işlevlerini açıklayabileceklerdir.
L.O. 2 :	Farklı coğrafyalardaki kutsal alanların mimari özelliklerini karşılaştırmalı olarak analiz edebileceklerdir.
L.O. 3 :	Antik döneme ait yazılı kaynakları ve arkeolojik verileri kullanarak kutsal alanların sosyal ve kültürel önemini değerlendirebileceklerdir.
L.O. 4 :	Kutsal mekanlarda gerçekleştirilen ritüel ve törenlerin toplumsal hayattaki etkilerini yorumlayabileceklerdir.