



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАИ

1000 София
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Basic Information:

Course Title: Aegean Thrace from the Late Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period (according to the archaeological record): habitation, material culture and cultural interactions

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Petya Velichkova Ilieva, PhD

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Total Teaching Hours: 30

Annotation (up to 150 words)

The lectures focus on the archaeological record illuminating the social, cultural and economic development of the coast between Strymon River and the Hellespont from the Late Bronze Age (16th-12th c. BC) till the end of the Classical Period (323 BC). The lectures present a detailed account of the settlement system, topography and architectural remains, various aspects of the material culture, cult and burial practices and monuments, and a discussion on the interactions of the local Thracian population with neighbouring regions before the Greek colonisation of the area, economic and cultural exchange, their cohabitation with the Greek settlers and the establishment of demographically mixed poleis with Greek and Thracian citizens. The lectures also lay emphasis on the adoption of inscribing votive gifts in Thracian language by some Thracian communities along the Northern Aegean coast, and their interactions with Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean (late 8th and 6th c. BC).

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Module 1: Introduction: history and state of research; Ancient written testimonies on the inhabitants of Aegean Thrace before and after the Greek colonisation (7th-6th c. BC); Aegean Thrace in the Late Bronze Age (16th – 12th c. BC): habitation patterns, material record economic and cultural interactions; Aegean Thrace in the Early Iron Age (11th – 6th c. BC): habitation patterns, material record economic and cultural interactions; Economic, social and cultural transformations of the communities in Aegean Thrace immediately before the Greek colonisation (8th-6th c. BC).

Module 2: Greek Colonisation of Aegean Thrace: Thasos and its Peraia; Topography and architecture of the Greek cities on Thasos and the opposite mainland (Peraia), religious and economic life, burial practices, material culture; “Little Ionia” (Abdera, Dikaia, Stryme, Maroneia); Topography and architecture of the Greek cities of “Little Ionia”, religious and economic life, burial practices, material culture; Samothrace and Samothracian Peraia; Topography and architecture of the Greek cities of Samothrace and Samothracian Peraia, religious and economic life, burial practices, material culture; Between Hebros River and the Hellespont.

Module 3: Aegean Thrace prior to, during and immediately after the Persian Wars (end of 6th – mid-5th c. BC); Economic flourish (the three major centres: Thasos, Abdera, Maroneia), religious and cultural life in the Classical Period; The conquest of Phillip of Macedon: some research questions.

Teaching and assessment methods

Teaching: hybrid (remote and on-campus attendance tailored to the lecturer-student commitments)



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Assessment: verbal, discussion-based

Competencies acquired as a result of training (3–5 points)

1. Critical analysis of archaeological data
2. Critical analysis of ancient written *testimonia*
3. Integrating contradictory or varied source materials into a unified, evidence-based interpretation.

Literature:

- Ilieva, P. 2025. Homer, Archilochus, Zone and the Kikones. In: Κατσαρή-Βαφειάδη, Τ., Ν. Μουρδικούδης, Ε. Περδίκη (eds.) *Η Κομοτηνή και η περιοχή της: Από την αρχαιότητα έως την εγκατάσταση των προσφύγων της Μικρασιατικής Καταστροφής*. 6-8.05.2022. Komotini, 63-80.
- Ilieva, P. 2024. Greek gifts offered to the Gods in Thracian language. – *Seminarium Thracicum* 8. Sofia, 81-105.
- Ilieva, P. 2024. *The Late Geometric and Early Archaic North-Eastern Aegean. Through the emergence, distribution and consumption of “G 2-3 Ware.”* Berlin-Boston: Walter de Gruyter.
- Ilieva, P. 2019. Phoenicians, Cypriots, Euboeans in the Northern Aegean: a reappraisal, *AURA* 2, 65-102.
- Ilieva, P. 2017. Thracians on the Northern Aegean islands: written *testimonia* and current archaeological evidence, *Thracia* 22. Sofia, 253-275.
- Isaac, B. 1986. *The Greek settlements in Thrace until the Macedonian Conquest. Studies of the Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society* 10. Leiden.
- Tiverios, M. 2008. Greek colonisation of the Northern Aegean. In: Tsetskhladze, G. (ed.) *An account of Greek colonies and other settlements overseas. Vol. 2.* Leiden-Boston, 1-154 (Brill Mnemosyne Supplementa).
- Ilieva, P. 2025. Homer, Archilochus, Zone and the Kikones. In: Κατσαρή-Βαφειάδη, Τ., Ν. Μουρδικούδης, Ε. Περδίκη (eds.) *Η Κομοτηνή και η περιοχή της: Από την αρχαιότητα έως την εγκατάσταση των προσφύγων της Μικρασιατικής Καταστροφής*. 6-8.05.2022. Komotini, 63-80.
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Additional information (optional) (e.g. prior knowledge)

Knowledge of the history of Ancient Greece and Ancient Thrace