

AEGEAN PREHISTORY

The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Aegean 'Homeric Archaeology'

Minoan Crete

Aegean Prehistory graduate courses

2025-2026

AEGEAN PREHISTORY: AIMS

1. To become knowledgeable about the archaeology of the Aegean Bronze and Early Iron Ages
2. To understand how archaeological evidence is used to reconstruct ancient societies
3. To address wider themes (e.g. state formation, iconography, religion) in specific contexts
4. To explore how archaeological and ancient textual evidence can be brought together
5. To consider how the history of archaeological discovery influences modern interpretations of the past

LECTURE LIST (Lectures will be given by Dr Andrew Shapland and Prof Irene Lemos)

Michaelmas Term

Aegean Prehistory/Homeric Archaeology Part I (Friday, 2-3, Ioannou Centre, Lecture Theatre)

1. Introduction, and the discovery of the Aegean Bronze Age (AS)
2. Chronology, environment, and 'the emergence of civilisation' (AS)
3. The Minoan palaces (AS)
4. Neopalatial Crete: politics, iconography, and religion (AS)
5. 'Minoanisation' and trade beyond the Aegean (AS)
6. The early 'Mycenaean' mainland and the Shaft Graves (AS)
7. Early Mycenaean society and the fall of Knossos (AS)
8. The Mycenaean palaces: ideology, politics, and infrastructure (AS)

Hilary Term

Aegean Prehistory/Homeric Archaeology Part II (time and place tbc)

9. Linear B and the Mycenaean economy (AS)
10. Mycenaean religion (AS)
11. Mycenaeans abroad I: life in the Eastern Mediterranean (AS)
12. Mycenaeans abroad II: Homer, Anatolia and the archaeology of Troy (AS)
13. The 'collapse' of Mycenaean palace society (AS)
14. Post-Palatial Greece: from collapse to resilience (IL)
15. Exchange in Early Iron Age: Euboeans, Phoenicians and others (IL)
16. Early Greek Settlements: towards the formation of the polis (IL)

Lectures for the 'Minoan Crete' option paper and 'Aegean Bronze Age Scripts' will not take place this year. At least one will run next year, tbc.

Do visit the Aegean World Gallery at the Ashmolean Museum if you can, one of the best collections of Aegean Bronze Age antiquities in the world. There is also related material in the Cypriot Gallery and Ancient Middle East Gallery.

Dr Lisa M. Bendall
(Convenor)