SYLLABUS: PRECLASSICAL SEAFARING

ANTH 612-600                      SPRING 2006

Thursdays 9:35 AM – 12:25 AM   ANTH Room 209 (CSFA)

Instructor: Shelley Wachsmann, Ph.D.
Nautical Archaeology Program
Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University

Office hours: Wednesdays, 3-5 PM. Generally, I am in my office (Room 122 in the INA Offices) on most weekday afternoons. Feel free to drop by. If you want to confirm a meeting, I can be reached at telephone (W) 979-847-9257 or (H) 979-691-4606, or via e-mail at <<swachsmann@tamu.edu>>.

SCHEDULE SPRING 2003

(1) January 19th: An Introduction
(2) January 26th: Reflections on the Evidence
(3) February 2nd: On the Trail of the Earliest Mediterranean Seafarers
(4) February 9th: Egyptian Seafaring
(5) February 16th: Syro-Canaanite Seafaring
(6) February 23rd: Cypriot (Alashian?) Seafaring*
(7) March 2nd: Minoan/Cycladic Ships & Seafaring
(8) March 9th: Mycenaean/Achaean Seafaring

Spring Break (March 13th-17th)

(9) March 23rd: Sea Peoples Seafaring
(10) March 30th: Bronze Age Shipwrecks
(11) April 6th: Ship Construction
(12) April 13th: Navigation
(13) April 20th: Varia
(14) April 27th: Reports on Seminar Papers

* Class to be rescheduled.
System of grading

Grades in this course will be based 50 percent on the student’s class participation and 50 percent on a term paper, to be submitted at the end of the year.

The seminar paper

The choice of a topic for your paper is yours and I am open to any and all reasonable proposals as long as they fit within the chronological (to ca. 1100 B.C.) and geographical limits of the seminar and have something to do with seafaring. The paper should be carefully researched, using primarily original sources and focused on a well-defined topic. Indicate the journal/style that you are using in the first footnote. Papers are due in my office mailbox no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 2nd, which is the last day of classes of the semester. A student submitting a paper after this will be automatically docked a grade.

As topic selection can be a difficult process, and lead to procrastination, I encourage you to look over the material that we will cover and select a topic early in the semester. Please drop by to discuss your topic ideas with me. You will be expected to submit to me a 250-word abstract together with a preliminary bibliography no later than our fifth meeting (February 16th). Remember, deadlines are our friends.

Electronic Course Reserves

Many of the readings, as well as the syllabus, are now on Electronic Course Reserves and can be downloaded as pdf (Acrobat) files. Those documents available are highlighted in the bibliographies below.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Services Building, or call 845-1637.

Social Security Numbers

It is no longer legal to use a student’s Social security number for posting grades. For that reason each student will receive a special class ID number.
GENERAL READING

ABREVIATIONS

*ABSA* *Annual of the British School at Athens*
*AJA* *American Journal of Archaeology*
*AOAT* *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*
*AS* *Anatolian Studies*

*BASOR* *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
*IEJ* *Israel Exploration Journal*
*JAOS* *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
*JCS* *Journal of Cuneiform Study*
*JEA* *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*
*JMA* *The Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*
*JNES* *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*
*MM* *Mariner’s Mirror*
*OJA* *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*
*OLA* *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta*
*PAP* *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*
*PPS* *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*
*RDAC* *Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus*


Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.
From the internet

AN INTRODUCTION

SESSION 1 (JANUARY 22ND)

Sailing in the sea, beginning the goodly way...

BAR II § 253

GENERAL
Here’s what we are going to do...
Preparation for each session
On writing your seminar paper
On plagiarism
Date for submission of seminar paper synopsis
Date for submission of seminar papers

ON WRITING

REFLECTIONS ON WRITING

Orwell’s Law of Language: The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one’s real and one’s declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish squirting out ink...

Orwell suggested six rules to improve one’s writing:

☐ Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.

☐ Never use a long word where a short one will do.

☐ If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.

☐ Never use the passive where you can use the active.

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Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.

Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

ASSIGNMENT: SEAFARING IN WENAMUN
The eleventh-century B.C. Tale of Wenamun is packed with references pertinent to contemporary seafaring. Read the tale and mark all references pertaining to seafaring in the Tale of Wenamun. After you have collected all details, check under ‘Wenamun’ in S3IBAL’s index for pertinent passages you might have missed. We will discuss this at the beginning of next class.

ANET: 25-29 (Tale of Wenamun).
REFLECTIONS ON THE EVIDENCE

SESSION 2

Ceci n’est pas une pipe.
   Caption in Magritte’s Les deux mystère

GENERAL READING
*SIBAL*: 3-5.

TEXTS
*Amarna*: XIII-XXXIX (introduction to the Amarna Letters), L (map of the world reflected in the Amarna Letters).

SHIP ICONOGRAPHY AND THE METHODOLOGY OF INTERPRETATION
*SIBAL*: 3-5.

EGYPTIAN ART 1

EGYPTIAN ART 2
# Reflections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holmes’s First Law</th>
<th>Eliminate all other factors, and the one that remains will be the truth. (From The Sign of the Four). ²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holmes’s Second Law</td>
<td>It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. (From A Scandal in Bohemia).³</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paster’s Observation</td>
<td>In the field of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind.⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occam’s razor</td>
<td>A scientific and philosophic rule that entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily which is interpreted as requiring that the simplest of competing theories be preferred to the more complex, or that explanations of unknown phenomena be sought first in terms of known quantities.</td>
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</tbody>
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²Ibid.: 116.  
³Ibid.  
⁴Ibid.: 183.
ON THE TRAIL OF THE EARLIEST MEDITERRANEAN SEAFARERS

SESSION 3

Some went down to the sea in ships...

Psalms 107: 23

GENERAL READING


*Flood:* 73-92.

*SIBAL:* 41, 69.


THE MEDITERRANEAN


CYPRUS

*Flood:* 73-92.


THE AEGEAN


Davis, J.L., 1992. Review of Aegean Prehistory I: The Islands of the Aegean. *AJA* 96: 699-756. [Read the parts dealing with the period prior to the Bronze Age]


**THE FLOODING OF THE BLACK SEA**


**THE EGYPTIAN/MESOPOTAMIAN CONNECTION**


**PLEISTOCENE SEAFARING**


EGYPTIAN SEAFARING

SESSION 4

Sailing, arriving in peace, journeying to Thebes with joy of heart.

BAR II: § 266

GENERAL READING

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

EARLY DYNASTIC AND OLD KINGDOM VESSELS
*MIMA:* 55-62.
*SSAW:* 16-22.
*Steffy:* 23-33.

EGYPTIAN SEAGOING SHIPS/PUNT
Faulkner, R.O., 1940. Egyptian Seagoing Ships. *JEA* 26: 3-9 and pls. II-IV.
*Navy:* 8-30.
*MIMA:* 9-29.

EGYPTIAN ANCHORS
*SIBAL*: 255-262.


**EGYPT IN ASIA DURING THE NEW KINGDOM & EXPEDITIONS TO SINAI**


*Navy*: 31-49.

*SIBAL*: 32-38.
SYRO-CANAANITE SEAFARING

SESSION 5

*If his ship comes back from Crete...*

RS 16.238 + 254

**GENERAL READING**


**SYRO-CANAANITE SHIPS**


*MIMA:* 62-66.

*Navy:* 49-70.


*SIBAL:* 39-60.

**THE RIB-ADDI CORRESPONDENCE IN EL AMARNA ARCHIVES**


**UGARIT**


**SYRO-CANAANITE RELIGION AND THE SEA**


**ANCHORS OF THE SYRO-CANAANITE COAST**


CYPRIOT (ALASHIAN?) SEAFARING

SESSION 6

A ship from Alas[hia....] which is in Atallig...
KTU 4.390

GENERAL READING

THE HISTORY OF CYPRUS

CYPRIOT SHIPS
Westerberg, K., 1983. Cypriote Ships from the Bronze Age to c. 500 B.C. Gothenberg.
(Use with caution as some of the depictions are foreign, mainly Mycenaean/ Sea Peoples ships found in Cyprus. Compare with S3IBAL: 123-176).
S3IBAL: 61-67.

CONCERNING ALASHIA
Amarna: XIII-XXXIX (introduction to the Amarna Letters), L (map of the world reflected in the Amarna Letters), EA 33-40, 114.
S3IBAL: 295-296.

CYPRIOT TRADE
Hirschfeld, N., 1990. Incised Marks on Late Helladic and Late Minoan III Pottery. (Unpublished Master’s Thesis; Texas A & M University).

**Cypriot Anchors**


MINOAN/CYCLADIC SHIPS & SEAFARING

SESSION 7

The arrival in peace of the chiefs of Keftiu-land (and) the islands which are within the Great Sea.

Inscription from the Theban Tomb of Rechmire

GENERAL READING


EARLY BRONZE AGE AEGEAN SHIPS & SEAFARING

MIMA: 76-93.
S3IBAL: 69-82.

THE THERAN NAVAL FRESCOES AND MINOAN SHIP REPRESENTATIONS

MIMA: 93-132.

**S3IBAL:** 83-121.


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**ON HUMAN SACRIFICE IN THE MINOAN/MYCENAEAN CULTURES**


**MINOANS IN THE EAST**


**WHO WERE THE AEGEANS DEPICTED IN THE THEBAN TOMBS?**


**THE DATE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THERA**


*Minoan Thalassocracy: Myth or Reality?*


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MYCENAEAN/ACHAEAN SEAFARING

SESSION 8

Rowers to Pleuron-going...

PY An 1

GENERAL READING


GENERAL

Sandy Pylos: 53-144.

MYCENAEAN SHIPS: THE CASE OF THE HEADLESS OARSMEN


**MIMA**: 140-154.


**SSAW**: 43-60 (Ships in Geometric art).

**SEAFARING IN MYCENAEAN LINEAR B TEXTS**


**THE PYLOS ROWER TABLETS AND THE END OF PYLOS**


**S3IBAL**: 123-158.

*Society and Economy in the Eastern Mediterranean (c. 1500-1000 B.C.).

**THE AHHIYAWA**


*S3IBAL:* 128-130.


**AMARNA: THE MISHI-PEOPLE & MYCENAEAN MERCENARIES?**


*Navy:* 64-67. (See E-Reserves under Syro-Canaanite Seafaring [050]).


$S^3IBAL$ 130.

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SEA PEOPLES SEAFARING

SESSION 9

Now, the seven ships that are approaching have done evil things to us.

RS 20.238

GENERAL READING
*S^3IBAL:* 163-204, 343-344.

ABOUT THE SEA PEOPLES

THE SHIPS OF THE SEA PEOPLES AT MEDINET HABU
*S^3IBAL:* 163-174, 317-319.

THE SHIPS OF THE SEA PEOPLES, SUPPLEMENTARY
MIMA: 66-69.
S3IBAL: 175-197, 201-204, 343-344.

A NORTHERN EUROPEAN CONNECTION?
S3IBAL: 174-176, 177-183.

CREMATION BURIALS IN THE EAST/AN ISRAELITE SEA PEOPLE?
Bible (Cremation of Saul and his sons): Compare I Samuel 31: 8-13 with I Chronicles 10: 8-12.
BRONZE AGE SHIPWRECKS

SESSION 10

...copper is lost in a ship...

KTU 4.394

GENERAL READING
S3IBAL: 205-212, 281-293.

THE CAPE GELIDONYA WRECK

THE ULUBURUN WRECK
Pulak, C. M., 2000. The Copper and Tin Ingots from the Late Bronze Age Shipwreck at Uluburun. In Metallurgica Antiqua: In Honour of Hans-Gert Bachmann and
S3IBAL: 206-208 (see notes for additional bibliography).

ON THE ROLES OF SYRO-CANAANITES AND MYCENAEANS AS SEA TRADERS

OTHER BRONZE AGE WRECK SITES
Dokos
Sheytan Deresi

**Cape Iria**


**Israel**


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SHIP CONSTRUCTION

SESSION 11

Your borders are in the heart of the seas, your builders made perfect your beauty...
Ezekiel 27: 4

GENERAL READING
Steffy: 36-37.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRONZE AGE SEAGOING SHIPS
Steffy: 36-37.

THE LIST TIMBERS: REMAINS OF MIDDLE KINGDOM WORK BOAT(S)

EGYPTIAN NEW KINGDOM DOCKYARD RECORDS
S3IBAL: 223-224.
LATER TEXTUAL EVIDENCE FOR HULL CONSTRUCTION
AJA 95: 441-445.
S3IBAL: 224-227.
SSAW: 14 n. 15, 217-219, 444.

AEGEAN BRONZE AGE WOODWORKING
S3IBAL: 243.
NAVIGATION

SESSION 12

They looked at the sky... they looked at the land...
From the Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor

GENERAL READING
S3IBAL: 295-301 (Navigation), 247-254 (Propulsion), 327-332, (particularly 330-331) (Conclusions.)

SAILING SEASONS

THE ART OF NAVIGATION
Lewis, D., 1975. We, the Navigators. Honolulu: 45-82.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BRAILED SAIL CA. 1200 B.C. AND ON SAILING TO WINDWARD


**SEA ROUTES**


**DEEP WATER ROUTES & WRECKS**


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**VARIA**

**SESSION 13**

*Uncover a tomb among the ancient tombs and preserve its seal until I return...*  
*LRL 2*

Keftiu... Tinay... Amnisos... Phaistos... Kydonia... Mycenaea...  
*The Kom el Heitan EN List*

**GENERAL READING**

*StIBAL*: 84, 297.  

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO DYNASTIES XX-XXI AND THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD**


**ROBBERS!**

Pomerance, L., 1975. The Possible Rôle of Tomb Robbers and Viziers of the Eighteenth Dynasty in Confusing Minoan Chronology. In *Studi in onore di Professor Doro*


**EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS ABROAD IN THE BRONZE AND EARLY IRON AGES**


**THE KOM EL HEITAN INSCRIPTION**


**MAPS AND PLANS**


**SEACOASTS**


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**REPORTS ON SEMINAR PAPERS**

**SESSION 14**

*And write us about what you have heard to cause our hearts to be elated...*  
LRL 12 (Year 2 of Renaissance)