

## APOLLONIA PONTICA EXCAVATION PROJECT, BULGARIA

Course ID: ARCH 159 XL

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### DIRECTORS

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### INTRODUCTION

Apollonia Pontica (present-day Sozopol) was one of the earliest urban centers on the western Black Sea coast. Founded by Milesian colonists at the end of 7th century BCE, the city was named Apollonia Pontica in honor of the patron deity of Miletus, Apollo. Apollonia became an autonomous, strong democratic polis. It was an important trade center between ancient Greece and Thrace. Thanks to its strong navy and naturally protected harbor, Apollonia kept control of the major merchant route along the western Black Sea coast, called Via Pontica, for several centuries. The city preserved its independence during the campaigns of Phillip II of Macedon (342-339 BCE) and Alexander the Great (335 BCE). In 72 BCE, Apollonia was conquered, pillaged, and burned by the Roman legions of Marcus Lucullus. At the beginning of the Late Antiquity (5th century AD) the town was restored to a measure of its former strategic important, economic and political power. It was known in the Roman world as Apollonia Magna (Great Apollonia). Following the Christian mainstream tradition, its name was changed to Sozopol (*town of salvation*) in the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE. The city survived the period of the Great Migration of People (4-7 century CE) and entered the Middle Ages as a focal point of long-lasting Byzantine-Bulgarian conflicts.

Known as the largest and richest Ancient Greek colony in the Black Sea region, Apollonia Pontica was famous for the colossal statue of Apollo made by the celebrated Greek sculptor Calamis. According to Pliny the Elder (Pliny 34.29) and Strabo (Strabo, 7.319), the 13-meter high bronze sculpture cost 500 talents. It was raised in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE in front of the temple dedicated to Apollo Ietros (the Healer), the patron deity of Apollonia Pontica. In 72 BCE, when the Romans sacked the city, the sculpture was taken to Rome as a trophy. It was exhibited for several centuries on the Capitoline Hill. During the Early Christian period it was lost, probably destroyed as many other pagan artifacts were.

Epigraphic sources mentioned the temple of Apollo as situated on an island, identified by most scholars with St. Kirik Island, the closest one to the ancient city. In 1927, the island was connected with the Old Town Quarter of Sozopol by a short and narrow breakwater way. Its name originates from the medieval monastery dedicated to *St. Cyricus* and his mother *St. Julitta* that once stood there.

The first archaeological survey on the island was conducted in 1904 by the French consul and scholar L. Degrand. The results from his excavations were never published, and many artifacts from the Archaic and Classical Greek period found there were transported to France and exhibited in the Louvre. For approximately 80 years St. Kirik Island was used as a military zone by the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence. In 2005, the island was demilitarized, and in 2009, the Apollonia Pontica Excavation Team lead by Dr. Krastina Panayotova restarted excavations. After several seasons of intensive research, the team exposed the following:

- A habitation area from the late 7th – 6th century BCE;
- A Late Archaic temple complex including a temple and an altar (late 6th - early 5th century BCE)
- An oval altar and a temple from the Hellenistic period (4th century BCE);
- An Ancient Greek tholos;
- Several Ancient Greek bothroi (pit altars);
- An Ancient Greek Copper Foundry;
- Early Byzantine basilica and necropolis (5th - 7th century CE).

These discoveries suggested that the earliest settlement of Apollonia was likely built on St. Kirik Island. The island later became the sacred precinct (temenos) of the town, and most probably the temple of Apollo Iatros was built there. During excavations in 2013, a fragment of East Greek pottery with an inscription - dedication to Apollo was found, an important piece of evidence confirming this theory. In 2014, this fragment was exhibited at the Louvre along with other artifacts representing Bulgarian archaeological heritage.

Research at St. Kirik Island convinced the Bulgarian Government to declare the area a cultural heritage site. Some of the abandoned military buildings have been designated to be converted into the Museum of the Maritime Contacts & Civilizations, and other buildings into archaeological, conservation, and restoration labs.

The Balkan Heritage Foundation (BHF) began field school projects at the site in 2011. It is held in cooperation with the Museum of Archaeology – Sozopol and the Institute for Field Research. The main discoveries from the last field school seasons were quite exciting and included:

- two ritual pits (bothroi) from the Archaic period containing elaborated aribaloi (small pottery containers for perfumes and makeup) shaped as a bullhead, a ram, warrior heads, goddess Artemis; several alabastroi (pottery and alabaster containers for perfumes); bronze phialae; an iron sword; numerous pottery vessels; bone artifacts, etc;
- several Early Christian (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century CE) graves;
- a Hellenistic ritual fireplace with remains of a clay wreath;
- architectural structures from the Archaic Period;
- numerous small finds, including several lamps from the Archaic and Early Byzantine periods; numerous pottery shards from the Archaic, Hellenistic, and Early Byzantine periods; fragments of marble decorative elements from Archaic and Hellenistic public buildings; coins; bone objects; etc.

For the 2017 season, the team will address important questions concerning the continuity of religious activity at the site. We will continue exploring the evolution of the island from its early settlement to a later Christian religious center. We will focus on trying to chronicle – using stratigraphic, seriation and classification methods – the evolution of cult practices conducted at Apollonia and the deities to whom worship were dedicated. Excavations will take place in the

periphery of the temenos and will search for remains of cult practices that probably were conducted there and for remains of a propylaeum that most probably was situated in the area. We will continue to excavate a feature with concentration of pottery and animal bones found in 2016 that could be another 'bothros' (a pit altar for placing donations for the gods).

#### ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 12 quarter credit units (equivalent to 8 semester units) through our academic partner, UCLA Extension. UCLA is a top ranked research university and its archaeology program is ranked amongst the best in the country. All IFR field schools instructors and curricula are approved both by the corresponding academic department and the Academic Senate at UCLA. This field school provides a minimum of 192 direct instructional hours.

**Transcripts:** Transcripts are available through UCLA UnEX and instructions for ordering transcripts may be found at <http://bit.ly/2bDOZ3E>. Grades will be posted and transcript available usually within six weeks after the end of this field school. All IFR field schools are designated XL classes – courses that are equivalent to undergraduate courses offered by the UCLA regular session. All XL courses are transferable for unit and subject credit toward the Bachelor's Degree at all campuses of the UC and CSU systems. Classes numbered 100 to 199 are considered upper division (junior/senior). For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2bjAqmy>.

**UCLA students:** Students can take classes through UCLA Extension to complete requirements. However certain considerations must be taken into account. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2bJWeHK>.

**Credit Units Transfer:** Most universities accept UCLA credit units – there are very few exceptions. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the transferability of the credit units with school officials BEFORE attending the field school.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To prepare students to perform basic excavation tasks: the use of tools, digging techniques, sieving, scraping, etc.
2. To prepare students to perform basic field documentation tasks: the use of measuring and documentation tools and devices, creating written (context sheets, field journals, finds labels, etc.), photo, and graphic documentation (drawing of stratigraphical situations, architectural structures, contexts, etc.).
3. To introduce students to basic find processing procedures: cleaning, selecting and arranging archaeological finds, technical pottery drawing, the organization of finds storage, etc.
4. To introduce students to basic archaeological conservation and restoration techniques and procedures.
5. To introduce students to the Ancient Greek civilization and the range of cultures of the Western Black Sea Coast in Antiquity.
6. To introduce students to contemporary standards of work in the Field Archaeology.
7. To introduce students to the health and safety requirements at an archaeological site.

#### DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. Note that South European (subtropical) climate dominates in the region, making summers hot (25-40°C) and breezy. Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but

not unheard of.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

This Field School schedule consists of four modules:

**MODULE I** - Theoretical module. Consists of three components (30 hours):

1. Lectures and instructions about field methods and practices;
2. Lectures about different aspects of Classical Archaeology (seventh – second century BCE) along the Western Black Sea Coast;
3. Lectures about the history and archaeology of the Balkans, Bulgaria and a range of regional sites.

**MODULE II** – Practicum. Consists of two components:

1. Field work, including basic practices of excavation and archaeological recordation (105 hours);
2. Workshops dedicated to archaeological finds processing, documentation, conservation and restoration of pottery, and anthropological and forensic analyses (35 hours).

**MODULE III** - Excursions accompanied by lectures, presentations and behind-the-scenes visits to sites of historical/archaeological significance. These include the towns of Nessebar (ancient Messambria, UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Varna (ancient Odessos) and the natural megalithic and archaeological site of Begliktash (app. 15 hours).

**MODULE IV** – Homework (app. 10 hours) will be assigned to all students, which will consist of editing and processing students' field documentation (field journal, context sheets, drawings, photos, etc.).

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Day 1		- Meeting students at the airport. Transfer to Sozopol. - Traditional Bulgarian welcome dinner.
Day 2	Orientation	- Visit to Sozopol Archaeological Museum, Old Town sightseeing and orientation walk
Day 3	Field work Instructions: Hygiene, health and safety at the site. Basic Field Methods and Practices for Excavation and Documentation. Use of Tools and Working Techniques.	- Lecture: “The Island <i>Saints Cyricus and Julitta</i> during the Archaic Period”
Day 4	Field work Instruction: Introduction to the Field Journal; Contextual Sheets, Log Book and Other Forms.	- Lecture: “History of the Greek Colonisation of the Western Black Sea Coast (seventh - fifth century BCE)”
Day 5	Field work Instruction: Three Dimensional Positioning of Finds, Features and Structures. How to Use a Total Station.	- Lecture: “History of Apollonia Pontica in Antiquity (seventh century BC - sixth century CE)”
Day 6	Field work Instruction: Horizontal and Vertical Stratigraphy	- Lecture: “Ancient Greek Cemeteries and Funeral Rites with Examples from the Western Black Sea Coast”

Day 7	Visit to the ancient town of Nessebar (UNESCO World Heritage Site)	
Day 8	Day off	
Day 7	Field work Instruction: How to Draw a Ground-plan/elevation-plan/Cross-section Using Scale	- Lecture: "Technology, Typology and Chronology of Ancient Greek Pottery with Examples from Apollonia Pontica"
Day 10	Field work Instruction: Field Photography	- Lecture and Workshop for cleaning, sorting and drawing of ceramic artifacts.
Day 11	Field work Instruction: Excavation Preparation. Preliminary Indoor Research	- Lecture and Workshop for cleaning, sorting and drawing of ceramic artifacts.
Day 12	Field work Instruction: Excavation completion. Post excavation work and analyses	- Lecture and Workshop for cleaning, sorting and drawing of ceramic artifacts.
Day 13	Field work	- Lecture and Workshop for cleaning, sorting and drawing of ceramic artifacts.
Day 14	Field work	- Free time - International dinner
Day 15	Visit to Varna	- International dinner
Day 16	Field work	- Lecture "Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Greek Pottery"
Day 17	Field work	- Workshop for conservation and restoration of ceramic artifacts
Day 18	Field work	- Workshop for conservation and restoration of ceramic artifacts
Day 19	Field work	- Workshop for conservation and restoration of ceramic artifacts
Day 20	Field work	- Workshop for conservation and restoration of ceramic artifacts
Day 21	Field work	- Workshop of finds processing
Day 22	Visit to the natural megalithic and archaeological site of Begliktash	
Day 23	Day off	
Day 24	Field work	- Workshop of finds processing
Day 25	Field work	- Workshop of finds processing
Day 26	Field work	- Workshop of finds processing
Day 27	Field work	- Exam

		- Workshop of finds processing
Day 28	Field work	- Free afternoon - Dinner and farewell party
Day 29	Departure – return home or further travel	

Course structure may be subject of change upon directors' discretion

### **Typical work day**

6.30 - 7.00	- Breakfast
7.30 - 8:00	- Lecture on field archaeology's methods and practices (at the site)
8:00 - 13.30	- Field-training at the excavation site
13.30 -17.00	- Lunch and siesta
17.00-19.00 / 19:30	- Lectures and workshops
20.00-21.00	- Dinner

In case of rainy days, lectures and lab work will be performed.

### **GRADING MATRIX**

Students will be graded based on their work as follows.

<b>% of Grade</b>	<b>Activity</b>
20 %	Exam
10 %	Excavating (use of tools, digging, scraping, brushing, cleaning, sieving, etc.)
10 %	Keeping a field journal and filling in context sheet and labels
10 %	Scale drawing (ground plan/ cross section/ specific archaeological structure or feature); Measuring and leveling
10 %	Photography
10 %	Finds processing: washing and sorting, labeling and registration
10 %	Artifact drawing (pottery)
10 %	Artifact photography
10 %	Conservation and restoration of pottery

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of the field school is 85% of the course hours. Any significant delay or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity. An acceptable number of absences for a medical or other personal reasons will not be taken into account if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings, homework or tutorials with program staff members.

### **PREREQUISITES**

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus requires a measure of understanding that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will have to work outdoors and will get sweaty and tired. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that archaeology requires real, hard work, in the sun and wind, on your feet, and with your trowel. The work requires patience, discipline, and attention to detail.

The Apollonia Pontica Excavation Project will host students and professionals from across the world. With such an international team, it is vital that all students respect the IFR code of conduct, each other's cultures, local cultures, and local rules and laws.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

- Work shoes (preferably closed toe shoes);
- A set of walking or hiking shoes for the excursions;
- Clothing suitable for outdoor activities (consider weather conditions from hot and sunny to rainy and chilly);
- Wide brim hat for the field work;
- A light raincoat for possible rainy and windy days;
- Medication - It is not necessary to bring over-the-counter medicine since you can buy all common types in Bulgaria (e.g. aspirin and anti-insecticides, sunscreen/tanning lotion, etc). It is recommended, however, that you bring any prescription medicines to last for the duration of this field school;
- A converter for an EU type electricity wall-plug – if needed;
- A good attitude for work, fun, study, and discoveries.

## TRAVEL & MEETING POINT/TIME

Students will be met at the Sofia International Airport Terminal 2 Arrival area on June 24 at 1:30pm. Look for a person carrying the “Balkan Heritage Program” sign. If you plan to arrive to Bulgaria prior to the beginning of the project, meet project staff on June 24 first at 12:30 on 2A Macedonia street in front of Hostel Mostel. Students will be transferred from the meeting point to the field house by taxi or minibus.

If you missed your connection or your flight was delayed/canceled, call, text or email the project staff (email: [bhfs.admissions@gmail.com](mailto:bhfs.admissions@gmail.com)). Local contact information will be provided to enrolled students.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of EU, EEA, USA, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand do not need a visa to visit Bulgaria for up to 90 days. You will enter Bulgaria as a tourist. Citizens of all other countries may need a visa. The Balkan Heritage Foundation can send an official invitation letter that should be used at the relevant embassy to secure a visa to the program. For more information visit the Balkan Heritage Foundation web site at <http://www.bhfieldschool.org/information/visa-help> and the links provided there.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is either at Dom Mladenovi guest house ([www.dommladenovi-sozopol.com](http://www.dommladenovi-sozopol.com)) or at the VMK Military Club, both of which have comfortable rooms with private bathrooms, air-conditions, refrigerators, TV, and Internet. Both hotels are located close to the town beaches, the Old Town Quarter, the Archaeological Museum, and within 15 min walking distance from the archaeological site.

Staying an extra day will cost 30 USD. Single rooms are available upon request for an additional fee of 125 USD per week (**Prices may vary due to the USD rate fluctuations**).

## MEALS

Three meals per day are covered by the tuition fee. Meals take place -- except the lunch packages during the excursions—in local taverns. This field school can accommodate vegetarians, vegans and individuals with lactose-intolerance diets. Kosher and gluten-free restrictions are not possible to accommodate at this field school.

***Participants will walk to and from the excavation site daily. It takes approximately 15-20 minutes to walk from the hotels to the site.***

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety and health orientation will take place at the first day of the program. Sozopol is a major Bulgarian summer resort location and offers medical facilities, first aid, and numerous pharmacies. Proper personal hygiene and resting after a hard day of field work are good prevention methods against the summer flu.

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Bulgarian dialing code:** +359

**Time Difference** (Summer time): UTC/GMT +2 hours (March through October).

**Measure units:** degree Celsius (°C), meter (m.), gram (gr.), liter (l)

**Money/Banks/Credit Cards:** The Bulgarian currency is the Bulgarian LEV (BGN). You cannot pay in Euros or other foreign currency, except in casinos and big hotels (where the exchange rate is really unfair)! Since 1997, the Bulgarian LEV has been pegged to the EURO at the exchange rate of 1 euro = 1.955 lev (usually sold for 1.94 lev). Bulgarian banks accept all credit cards and sometimes travelers' cheques. Usually banks open at 8.30-9.00 am and close at 5.00-6.00 pm. They work from Monday to Friday. Shopping malls, supermarkets, and many shops in Sofia and/or bigger towns and resorts will also accept credit cards. This is not valid for smaller "domestic" shops throughout the country where the only way of payment is cash! You can see Bulgarian notes and coins in circulation at:

[http://www.bnb.bg/NotesAndCoins/NACNotesCurrency/index.htm?toLang=\\_EN](http://www.bnb.bg/NotesAndCoins/NACNotesCurrency/index.htm?toLang=_EN)


Exchange of foreign currencies is possible not only at banks but also at numerous exchange offices. NB, Most of them don't collect a commission fee and have acceptable exchange rates (+/- 0.5-1,5% of the official rate) However, those located in shopping areas of big cities, resorts, railway stations, airports, etc., can overcharge you varying amounts. Ask in advance how much money you will get!

ATMs are available all over the country and POS-terminals are in every bank office.

If you plan to use your credit/debit card in Bulgaria, please inform your bank of your intention before departure! Otherwise it is very possible that your bank will block your account/ card for security reasons when you try to use it abroad! Unblocking your card, when abroad, may cost you several phone calls and a lot of money.

### **Electricity**

The electricity power in the country is stable at 220 - Volts A.C. (50 Hertz). Don't forget to bring a voltage converter, if necessary!

Outlets in Bulgaria generally accept 1 type of plug:  two round pins. If your appliance's plug has a different shape, you will need a plug adapter.

### **Emergency**

National emergency number is 112.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students via a shared Dropbox folder.

**Bordman, J.** *Early Greek Vase Painting, 11<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. A Handbook.* Thames and Hudson, 1998, p. 177 – 257.

**Collet, L.** *An Introduction to Drawing Archaeological Pottery.* Rotherham, Yorkshire, 2008, p. 5-31.

**Cook, R, P. Dupont.** *East Greek Pottery.* London, New York, 1998. p. 1-10; 26 – 70; 77 – 94; 129 – 131; 192 – 206.



**Damyanov, M.** *Two Decades of Archaeological Research in Apollonia Pontica (Sozopol, Bulgaria) - Presentation at Archaeological Institute of America – 112th Annual Meeting – Philadelphia, January 5-8, 2012*

**Grammenos, D., Petropoulos, E. (ed).** *Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black sea. - Publication of the Archaeological Institute of North Greece, vol.1. Thessaloniki, 2003, p. 95 – 155*

**Panayotova K., Damyanov M., Stoyanova D., Bogdanova T.,** *Apollonia Pontica: The Archaic Temenos and Settlement on the Island of St. Kirik. In: Proceedings of the XVIII International Congress of Classical Archaeology, Merida, Spain, 2015, p. 47-50*

**Panayotova, K.** *The Necropolis of Apollonia Pontica in Kalfata / Bugjaka: In.- Docter, R., Panayotova, K., de Boer, J., Donnellan, L., van der Put, W., Bechtold, B. Apollonia Pontica, 2007, Gent, 2008, p. 5-28*

**Tsetsckhladze, G.** *Greek Penetration of the Black Sea. – The Archaeology of Greek Colonisation: Essays dedicated to Sir John Boardman, ed. Tsetsckhladze, G., de Angelis, F., Oxford, 1994, p. 111 – 135*

#### **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

**Amyx, D. A., P. Lawrence.** *Archaic Corinthian Pottery and the Anaploga Well. – Corinth, vol. VII, part II, Princeton, 1975.*

**Beazley, J. D. -** *Greek Vases. Lectures, ed. by D. C. Kurtz, Oxford, 1989).*

**Boardman, J. -** *The Greeks Overseas. Their Early Colonies and Trade (fourth edition) (Thames & Hudson, 1999).*

**Garland, R.** *Daily Life of the Ancient Greeks. Second edition, London, 2009.*

**Gocha R. Tsetsckhladze -** *Greek Colonization: v. 1, 2: An Account of Greek Colonies and Other Settlements Overseas (Brill, 2006, 2008)*

**Grant J., S. Gorin, N. Fleming, -** *The Archaeology Coursebook: an Introduction to Themes, Sites, Methods and Skills (Routledge, 2008).*

**Harris, E. -** *Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy (London & New York: Academic Press, 1989)*  
Available in Internet - <http://www.harrismatrix.com/>

**Lambrino, M. F.** *Les Vases Archaïques D’Histria. București, 1938.*

**Moore, M. B., M. Z. Philippides.** *Attic Black-figured pottery. – The Athenian Agora, vol. XXIII, 1986.*

**Panayotova, K.** *Burial and post-burial rites in the necropolises of the Greek colonies on the Bulgarian Black Sea Littoral. - In: Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea - 2, vol. I. BAR International Series, 2007, 87 – 126.*

**Renfrew, C., P. Bahn -** *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice (Thames& Hudson, 2008)*

**Richter, G.** *A Handbook of Greek Art. Phaidon Press, 1987, p. 292 – 369*

**Risser, M. K.** *Corinthian Conventionalizing Pottery. - Corinth, vol. VII, part V, Princeton, 2001.*

**Sparks B.A., L. Talcott.** *Black and Plain Pottery of the 6<sup>th</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC. - The Athenian Agora XII. Princeton, 1970.*