

STOBI, THE CAPITAL CITY OF MACEDONIA SECUNDA EXCAVATION PROJECT: REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Course ID: ARCH 365P

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INTRODUCTION

The first historic records to mention Stobi were written by the Roman historian Titus Livy (*ca.* 197 BCE). According to Livy, Stobi became an important center for salt trading after the Roman conquest of Macedonia. During the Pax Romana, the city became major urban center in the north part of the Roman province Macedonia. Stobi had the rank of municipium which is witnessed the earliest on coins of emperor Vespasian, minted in 69 AD as the first series of the mint at Stobi. The strategic location at the crossroad of the ancient roads that ran along the two rivers Axios and Erigon were the main precondition for the urban and demographic growth. The first road connected the North and South of the Balkans as it does today, while the second to the southwest connected Stobi with the Via Egnatia near Heraclea Lyncestis and to the northeast continued to Serdica.

This commercial and strategic position brought Stobi long-term prosperity, especially in the period between the 1st and 3rd centuries CE. Several monumental buildings in the city are dated to this period: the Theater, the first City Wall, Porta Heraclea, the Public Building with Arches (probably the

Stobi library), the Casa Romana, the Synagogue, as well as the water supply system. In 267 CE, the city suffered from raids conducted by the Goths and Herules. At the end of the 3rd century, Stobi was devastated by an earthquake; it was later rebuilt but following a different urban plan. Most of the ruins visible today belong to buildings dating to this period.

In the 4th century CE, Stobi became an important Christian center and the seat of powerful bishops. Late, in the 5th-6th centuries, Stobi was the capital city of the Roman province Macedonia Secunda, but suffered from the raids of Huns, Ostrogoths, Avars and Slavs. The constant threat of barbarian raids as well as certain climatic changes lead to the gradual abandonment of the city in the second half of the 6th century CE. Some records mention a small Slav community that settled and lived there in later centuries. The last historical reference regarding Stobi describes the victory of the Byzantine troops over Stobi's local militia during the 11th century CE.

HISTORY OF EXCAVATIONS

The first reported excavation at Stobi begun during World War I in 1914 and was led by the archaeologist Hald. Later, in 1918, excavations were led by F. Krischen and a group of German officers. Between 1923 and 1940, excavations were directed by Balduin Saria and R. Eger, Kj. Truhelka, V. Petkovic, J. Petrovic, Dj. Mano-Zissi from the Belgrade National Museum. From 1955 to 1969, the Archaeological Museum of Skopje and the Agency for Protection of Monuments of Culture (Macedonia) were in charge of further archaeological research. Between 1970 and 1980, excavations were directed by Dj. Mano-Zissi and J. Wiseman from the Museum of Veles, Macedonia, and the University of Texas at Austin and later Boston University, respectively. Rescue excavations in 1992-95 were conducted by the Agency for Protection of Monuments of Culture (Macedonia). The National Institution Stobi was founded in December 2008, and its large-scale excavations began in 2009. The aim was to systematically excavate the south end of Stobi. In 2010, the National Institution Stobi was formed as an independent state institution and has since successfully finalized numerous archaeological and conservation projects (for more information, see: www.stobi.mk).

The participants in the field school projects (2014-2017) excavated an area next to one of the most representative, residential buildings in Stobi – the so called [Theodosian Palace](#) – located at the center of the Roman town, between the streets of Via Principalis Inferior and Via Principalis Superior. The building, which is richly decorated with mosaics, was given its name under the assumption that the emperor Theodosius I was accommodated there during his visit to Stobi in 388 CE.

The excavations in the last four years brought to light a late antique building situated between the Theodosian palace and an adjacent building, now called “the Jail” due to the discovery of shackled skeletons in the 1920s. In 2018, the work will continue in the same area in an effort to investigate the temporal and architectural relationships between the three buildings.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institutions prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One additional transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no additional cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvrkl>.

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 (locus 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, field inventory, technical pottery drawing, the organization of finds storage, etc.
4. To introduce students to contemporary 3D recording techniques, including Digital Photogrammetry, Satellite Positioning and Total Station Surveying.
5. To introduce students to the range of materials and cultures of Stobi and the region in the Roman and Late Roman period.
6. To introduce students to contemporary standards of work on an archaeological site.
7. To introduce students to health and safety requirements at an archaeological site.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Archaeological field work involves physical work outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different from those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. Note that South European (subtropical) climate dominates the region, making summers hot. Temperatures may reach (30-40⁰C/90-100⁰F). Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but not impossible.

Macedonia is a new country that used to be part of the former Yugoslavia. Its culture is unique and different from that you experience in the West. Macedonia hospitality is exceptional and food is central to many social interactions. Expect to learn much about people significantly different than folks living next door to you in the US. If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Field School schedule consists of four modules:

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

1. Lectures and instructions about field methods and practices.
2. Lectures addressing different aspects of the history and archaeology of Stobi.
3. Lectures exploring the history and archaeology of the Balkans, Macedonia and other local sites.

MODULE II – Practicum (approx. 160 hours). Consists of two components:

1. Field work, including the basic practices of excavation and archaeological recording.
2. Workshops dedicated to primary archaeological finds processing and documentation.
3. Workshops in 3-D Archaeological Recording Methods: In 2018, an additional module will be added to the excavations at Stobi that will instruct students on the use of new three-dimensional recording techniques. These techniques complement and amplify the traditional hand-recording techniques that the students will also learn during the course of the excavations. This new module will include instruction on basic geodesy, the setting up and operation of both total stations and GPS/GLONASS receivers, and the fundamentals of technical photography, including DSLR operation, lens selection and proper exposure. The core of the module will consist of workshops on digital photogrammetry -- a technique that uses overlapping photos to create

dense 3-D models -- in order to record the excavations and selected finds. The students will learn to plan and execute photogrammetric recording in the field, to process the resulting imagery in software, and to produce accurate drawings from the 3D data. This module is available for course credit through Queen's University. Students interested in receiving Queen's credit should contact the head instructor of this module, George Bevan (Associate Professor, Geography and Planning).

MODULE III - Excursions accompanied by lectures, presentations and behind-the-scenes visits to sites of historical/archaeological significance, such as the town of Bitola (Archaeological Museum), the site of Heraclea Lyncestis, the town of Ohrid (the Ancient Lychnidos, UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the city of Skopje (National Archaeological Museum of Skopje, the Museum of Numismatics) in Macedonia, and Pella and Vergina in Greece.

MODULE IV – Homework (est. 10 hours) will be assigned to all students. Homework will consist of editing and processing students' field journals, context sheets, drawings, and photos and preparing in presentations and reports.

Program Schedule

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Day 1 23 June		- Meeting students at the airport. Transfer to Stobi. - Traditional Macedonian welcome dinner.
Day 2 24 June	Orientation. Presentation of National Institution Stobi, Balkan Heritage Foundation – Institute for Field Research Joint Program, the Field School agenda and goals, the team and participants, some practicalities.	Lecture: Introduction to the history of Macedonia (from Hellenistic to Late Roman Period) Lecture: History and Archaeology of Stobi Lecture: Introduction in the excavation area and methodology of fieldwork Stobi Sightseeing
Day 3 25 June	Field work	Lecture: From the Field to Storage – review of basic methods for uncovering, “first aid”, consolidation in situ, cleaning, sorting out, labeling, documenting and storing of ceramic artifacts Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 4 26 June	Field work	Lecture: Total Station and GNSS Surveying; Ground Control Set-up. Workshop: Total Station and GNSS Surveying and Ground Control Set-up
Day 5 27 June	Field work	Lecture: Typology of Roman and Late Roman Pottery (Based on Examples from Stobi) Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing

Day 6 28 June	Field work	Lecture: Archaeological Photography and Principles of Digital Photogrammetry; Mapping in 3DM Analyst Workshop: Digital Photogrammetry of Excavations and Total Station Operation; Mapping in 3DM Analyst
Day 7 29 June	Field work	Workshop: Pottery Drawing, Part I (in groups)
Day 8 30 June	Excursion: Guided visit to Bitola and the ancient city of Heraclea Lyncestis	
Day 9 1 July	Excursion: Guided visit to Ohrid: Ancient Lychnidos (UNESCO World Heritage Site)	
Day 10 2 July	Field work	Workshop: Introduction to Surveying: Total Station
Day 11 3 July	Field work	Workshop: Introduction to Surveying: GNSS
Day 12 4 July	Field work	Workshop: Pottery Drawing, Part II Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 13 5 July	Field work	Workshop: Processing Photogrammetry Data in 3DM Analyst and Agisoft Photoscan
Day 14 6 July	Field work	Lecture: Religious Beliefs in Stobi Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 15 7 July	Excursion: Optional Guided visit to Pella and Vergina in Greece – Not Included in the participation fee. The price varies, depending on the number of the students between 40-60 Euros.	
Day 16 8 July	Free day	
Day 17 9 July	Field Work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 18 10 July	Field work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 19 11 July	Field work	Lecture: Architecture and Urban Development in Stobi Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing

Day 20 12 July	Field work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 21 13 July	Field work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 22 14 July	Excursion: Guided visit of Skopje	
Day 23 15 July	Free day	
Day 24 16 July	Field work	Lecture: Cemeteries and Burial Practice in Stobi Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 25 17 July	Field work	Exam Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 26 18 July	Field work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 26 19 July	Field work	Workshop: Archaeological finds and field documentation processing
Day 27 20 July	Field work	- Presentation of the Excavation's results. - Evaluation meeting and Conclusion Dinner and farewell party
Day 28 21 July	Departure	

The course structure may be subject to change upon directors' discretion.

Typical work day

6.00 - 6.30	- Breakfast
6.40 - 13.00	- Field-training at the excavation site
13.30 - 17.00	- Lunch and siesta
17.00 - 19.00	- 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.

% of Grade	Activity
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20 %	Exam
10 %	Excavating (use of tools, digging, scraping, brushing, cleaning, etc.)
20 %	Keeping a field journal and filling in locus sheet and labels
10 %	Scale drawing (ground plan/ cross section/ specific archaeological structure or feature); Measuring and leveling
10 %	Photography, Photogrammetry and Surveying
10 %	Finds processing: washing and sorting, labeling and registration
10 %	Artifact drawing (pottery)
10 %	Presentation of the field work results

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of this field school is 85% of the course hours. Any significant tardy or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity. An acceptable number of absences for which a medical or reasonable excuse is provided will not be taken into account if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings or personal consultations and 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 Stobi 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 Student Code of Conduct, each other's cultures, and local social and cultural laws and rules.

EQUIPMENT LIST

- Work shoes (preferably closed toe shoes)
- An additional set of walking and hiking shoes
- Clothing suitable for outdoor activities (consider weather conditions from hot and sunny to rainy and chilly)
- Wide brim hat for field work
- A light raincoat for possible rainy and windy days
- Medication - It is not necessary to bring over-the-counter medicine from your country since you can buy most types in Macedonia (e.g. aspirin, anti-insecticides, sunscreen, etc). It is recommended, however, that you bring any individual prescription medicines
- A converter for an EU type electricity wall-plug if needed
- A good attitude for work, fun, study, and discoveries

ACCOMMODATION

Participants stay at the recently renovated, air-conditioned cabins at the archaeological base camp next to the ancient site of Stobi. Students will be housed in rooms with 2-3 beds each. Each cabin has 4 bedrooms, a living room, and 2 bathrooms with showers. A washing machine and Wi-Fi are available for free.

The closest village to Stobi is Gradsko (5 km), where there are grocery stores, a pharmacy, an ATM, and medical facilities. The closest big supermarket, drug-stores, pharmacies, banks with ATM and hospitals are in the city of Negotino (13 Km from Stobi).

Meals: Three meals (fresh, homemade food) per day are covered by your tuition. Meals usually take place at the field house premises, except for lunch packages during excursions. This field school can accommodate vegetarians, vegans and individuals with lactose-intolerance diets. Kosher and gluten-free diets are impossible to accommodate at this location.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT/TIME

Students will be met by staff members at the Skopje International Airport (SKP) on June 23 at 5:00 pm. The meeting point is at the arrival area of the airport. Please look for staff members holding up the “Balkan Heritage” sign. Students will be transferred by shuttle service from the airport to the field house. The trip takes approximately 1.5 hours, but that time highly depends on traffic. **The price of the pickup is not included in the participation fee. It varies between 25 – 50 Euros, depending on the number of students sharing the taxi.**

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

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the US, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand **do not need a visa** to visit Macedonia for up to 90 days. 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 about border crossing visit the Balkan Heritage Foundation web site at <http://www.bhfieldschool.org/countries/macedonia> and <http://www.bhfieldschool.org/information/visa-help> and the links provided there.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety and health orientation will take place at the beginning of the program. Cities around Stobi offer good medical facilities, first aid, and pharmacies. Proper personal hygiene and resting after a hard day of field work are good prevention methods against the summer flu.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Macedonian dialing code: +389

Time Difference (Summer time): UTC/GMT +1 hours (April through September)

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

Money/Banks/Credit Cards: The Macedonian currency is the **Macedonian DENAR (MKD)**. You cannot pay in Euros or other foreign currency except in casinos and big hotels (where the exchange rate is really low)!

Macedonian banks accept all credit cards and travelers’cheques. Usually banks are open from 8.00 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday and from 8.00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Shopping malls, supermarkets and many shops in the bigger towns and resorts will also accept credit cards. For most small shops throughout the country, the only way of payment is cash. Exchange of foreign currencies is possible not only at banks but also at numerous exchange offices. Most do not collect commission fees and have acceptable exchange rates (+/- 0.5-1.5% of the official rate).

ATMs are available all over the country and are a safe way to get Macedonian Denars.

You can see Macedonian notes and coins in circulation at:

www.nbrm.mk/?ItemID=C2B15406ABC3BC46B2525F66092FB01D

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

Electricity

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



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

Emergency

National emergency number is **112**

Police: **192**

Fire brigade: **193**

Ambulance: **194**

Road assistance: **196**

REQUIRED READINGS

Some of the required readings will be posted on the field school website. Enrolled students will have access to and be able to download PDFs upon completion of payment.

Anderson - Stojanovic, V. R. - *Stobi. The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery*, Princeton University Press, 1992, p. 1-61; 144 – 155.

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

Grant J., S. Gorin and N. Fleming. *The Archaeology Coursebook: an introduction to themes, sites, methods and skills. Routledge. 2008, p. 25-51; 81 – 192; 93-100; 114 – 119; 277 -281.*

Wiseman, J. R., D. Mano-Zissi - *Stobi: A City of Ancient Macedonia, Journal of Field Archaeology, 3, 1976, 269-302.*

Anderson-Stojanović V. R. - Computer-assisted analysis of pottery at Stobi, Yugoslavia. *Journal of field archaeology* (2013), p. 335-348.

Wilkes, J. - The Archaeology of War: Homeland Security in the South-West Balkans (3rd–6th c. AD). *War and Warfare in Late Antiquity* (2 vols.). Brill, 2013. 733-757.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Arnold, H., M. Jones - *The Later Roman Empire, 284-602: A Social, Economic, and Administrative Survey*, Vol. 1 and 2. (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986).

Boardman, J., et al. (ed.) - *The Oxford History of the Classical World.* (Oxford & New York, 1986).

Boev B., et al. - *Mineralogical investigation of the Old Episcopal Basilica in the archeological locality of Stobi." Geologica Macedonica 30.1 (2016), p. 3-33.*

Brown, P. - *The World of Late Antiquity AD 150-750* (W. W. Norton & Company, 1989).

Burke, H., C. Smith - *The Archaeologist's Field Handbook* (Allen & Unwin, 2004)

Cameron, A. - *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity: AD 395-600* (Routledge, 1993).

- Cary, M., H. H. Scullard** - *A History of Rome: Down to the Reign of Constantine* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1976).
- Drewett, P. L.** - *Field Archaeology: An Introduction* (University College London, 1999)
- Errington, R. M.** - *A History of the Hellenistic World: 323-30 BC* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008)
- Harris, E.** - *Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy* (London & New York: Academic Press, 1989)
Available in Internet - <http://www.harrismatrix.com/>
- Hemans, C. J.** - *Late Antique Wall Painting from Stobi, Yugoslavia* (Diss. Bloomington, 1987).
- Mano-Zissi D., J. Wiseman (Hrsg)** - *Studies in the Antiquities of Stobi (=Proucavanja starina u Stobima)*, Beograd 1, 1973; 2, 1975; 3, 1981.
- Mikulcik I.** *Stobi. An ancient city* (Skopje 2003)
- Nikolova E.** - *Stobi – The West Cemetery, 1995 excavation, Macedonia Acta Archaeologica 18* (Skopje 2008)
- Renfrew, C., P. Bahn** - *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice* (Thames & Hudson, 2008)
- Shurbanovska M. et al.** - *Archaeological Excavations – Stobi 2001, Macedonia Acta Archaeologica 18*, (Skopje 2008)
- Styliaras G.** - *Towards a web-based archaeological excavation platform for smartphones: review and potentials. SpringerPlus 4.1 (2015): 1.*
<https://springerplus.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40064-015-1115-3>
- Wiseman J.** - *Stobi in Yugoslavian Macedonia: Archaeological Excavations and Research, 1977–78.* *Journal of Field Archaeology* 5.4 (1978): 391- 429.