

Mycenaean Northeastern Kopaïs Project: Summary Information (2017)

Co-Directors

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Synopsis of Project

The Mycenaean Northeastern Kopaïs (MYNEKO) Test Program is an official archaeological collaboration between the University of Maryland Baltimore County and the Director of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.

- 1) further investigation of the design and construction of the Late Helladic (Late Bronze Age) drainage and flood-control systems in the northeastern **Kopaïs, Viotia, central mainland Greece**;
- 2) further ground-truthing of the nature and character of features discovered during the co-applicant Lane's AROURA fieldwork (2010–12) in the ancient polder around the L.H. fortress of Glas, which are hypothesized to constitute a contemporary system of irrigated agricultural fields (see <http://www.umbc.edu/aroura> for reports, history of investigations, and bibliography);
- 3) refinement of the chronology of both the drainage and flood-control works and the features of the hypothetical field system both by cross-dating and artifact seriation and by radiometric analyses;
- 4) ascertainment of the relationship between the hydraulic works and hypothetical field system, including responding to questions previous investigators posed concerning water-regulating mechanisms within the polder around Glas; and
- 5) carrying out preliminary subsurface exploration of the Aghia Marina Pyrgos settlement site, which has a major L.H. component and promises evidence of both the palace sector of the regional economy, as does Glas with its massive food stores, and of non-palace sectors, particularly through its relationship to the polder and surrounding agro-pastoral landscapes.
- 6) conducting similar subsurface testing at the fortified L.H. site of Aghios Ioannis, in order to determine the sequence of inhabitation and ascertain its functional relationship with artificial drainage into the adjacent Spitia Sinkhole.

MYNEKO will attain its goals through a program of *digital mapping stratigraphic test trenching, finds and samples recovery, and pedological and geomorphological survey* designed to answer concrete research questions. (See also the attached figures showing loci of operations.)

Academic Requirements

Students who wish to be eligible must

- *EITHER* enroll in (and pass) Dr. Lane's ARCH 350(1) "Archaeological Methods and Techniques" course in the spring of 2017 *OR* arrange to undertake independent study or an internship under his supervision during the same period; **AND**
- Enroll in **ARCH 397** Experience in Archaeological Fieldwork for a **three credits** (= one session; see "Schedule of work" below) *OR the equivalent* available through the department in whose subject the student is majoring (to be decided between Dr. Lane and the student's academic adviser).

NOTE: *ARCH 397 is offered in the fall, even though it is realized in the summer. While this is done principally for bookkeeping reasons, it is also to the advantage of the student, who does not thereby have to pay summer session fees.*

Room and Board

Dr. Lane has applied for funding to cover housing costs for the students. They will reside in fully furnished apartments, with a shared toilet and shower, in the village of Kokkino, about 5 miles from the epicenter of archaeological operations. There is no central air conditioning, but the buildings are designed to be cool and airy at night. There is a small surcharge, approximately 20 euros per student, to cover water and electricity bills in the student housing.

Dr. Lane has arranged with local businesses to provide hot meals every day from Monday through Friday. Students should budget 15 euros a day – currently just over US \$15, but more conservatively ca. \$18 – to cover these meals. They must provide for their own food on the weekends.

Expenses

The biggest expense will be **airfare**. As of late November, 2015 – and these are subject to considerable change, including diminution as the departure date approaches – a **round-trip** ticket from Dulles International (Washington, D.C./Fairfax Co.,VA) to Venizelos International in Athens (usually with one change of plane) in June 2017 runs between **\$1,100** and **\$1,500**. (Prices are often a couple of hundred dollars *higher* through BWI – Thurgood Marshall.) *If students are willing and able to arrive in the last week of May, at the same time that Prof. Lane arrives, then airfare may be as much as \$500 less expensive.* As explained above, once students have arrived in Greece, housing is provided free of charges except utilities.

Comprehensive in-state **tuition** fees at UMBC are currently \$475 per credit hour – hence **\$1,425** for one three-week session. *Students must be signed up for at least three credits of ARCH 397 or the equivalent.* Therefore, students are advised *conservatively* to budget for \$1,500 + \$378 [21×18] + \$1,475 = **TOTAL COST ca. \$3,353** (*although actual costs could be lower and are very unlikely to be higher*). This budget does **not** include expenses for tourism, gifts, souvenirs, and other miscellaneous personal expenses.

Scholarship Awards

Awards of between \$500 and \$2,500 are available from the ANCS department to students majoring in Ancient Studies. **PLEASE INQUIRE AS TO WHETHER SIMILAR AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH WHICHEVER DEPARTMENT YOU ARE A MAJOR IN.**

MYNEKO is emphatically **NOT** meant to be an opportunity available only to ANCS majors. Dr. Lane will make inquiries of the heads of various departments at UMBC about relevant awards, and he will do everything he can to help students obtain them.

Students will receive advance training in excavation and survey techniques before arriving in Greece. The latter measure is meant to ensure that their transition to actual fieldwork under a qualified supervisor is quick and efficient. Students will mainly assist in test trench excavation, but if they are sufficient in number, they will also be assigned jobs related to digital mapping and field walking for surface collection. Trench supervisors and Co-director Lane are responsible for assessing the quality of students' work, as well as their fulfillment of person-hour obligations, and Dr. Lane will be the ultimate arbiter of course grades on the basis of these written or verbal assessments.

Myneko **IS** emphatically a research project, not a training dig *per se*. Therefore students are expected to be able competently to execute the basic skills they have learned in ARCH 350 upon arrival on site and to keep up with the schedule of work (below) to the best of their mental and physical ability.

Schedule of Work

Project Duration and Funding Period

The Mycenaean Northeastern Kopais project is scheduled to be carried out in two summer campaigns, one in 2016 and the other in 2017. The project has applied for the maximum of six weeks allowed by the Central Archaeological Council of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports for fieldwork in each year. This is the Permit Period. The Funding Period for each summer campaign consists of the Permit Period plus a week before for preparation and a week after for closing down. Specifically,

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permit Period</u>	<u>Funding Period</u>
2017	June 5 – July 16	May 29 – July 23

Analytical 2017 Campaign

N.b.: In any given three-week half-campaign period, operations will be divided between drainage system and non-drainage system areas of investigation, three sites explored in each three-week study period.

Week	Operations	Personnel and Comments
Week 0 (May 29 – June 4)	No archaeological operations Paying for rent of houses, laboratory, and vehicles; purchasing materials and supplies; opening and cleaning laboratory	Dr. Lane, Ms. Dissinger, Dr. Phialon, and a few U.M.B.C. students

Week 1 (June 5–11)	Beginning of Training Session I Removing backfill from AMP-T1 and AMP-T2; resumption of excavation at these loci; digital mapping of extant walls and other features at A.I. and A.M.P.; re-establishing corners and T.B.M.s at test trench locations as needed; recording location of AI-T6 (2016)	At A.M.P.—Dr. Lane, Ms. Dissinger, Dr. Phialon, and U.M.B.C. student crew
Week 2 (June 12–18)	Excavation of AMP-T1 and AMP-T2; excavation of AI-T1 and AI-T2 (new in 2017); excavation at Q1-T1 (landowner's affidavit already obtained); Dr. Lane securing landowners' permission affidavits for 2017	At A.M.P.—Dr. Lane, Ms. Dissinger, Dr. Phialon, and U.M.B.C. student crew At A.I.—Dr. Kountouri, Dr. Petrocheilos, and Greek student crew At Q1-T1—Dr. Theodoridis and Greek student crew
Week 3 (June 19–25)	Finishing excavation of AMP-T1 and AMP-T2 (as needed); beginning of excavation of AMP-T3 and AMP-T4; excavation of AI-T1 and AI-T2; excavation of Q-T1; Dr. Lane securing remaining permission affidavits	At A.M.P.—Dr. Lane, Ms. Dissinger, Dr. Phialon, and U.M.B.C. student crew At A.I.—Dr. Kountouri, Dr. Petrocheilos, and Greek student crew At Q1-T1—Dr. Theodoridis and Greek student crew
Week 4 (June 26 – July 2)	Beginning of Training Session 2 Excavation of AMP-T3 and AMP-T4; excavation of H2-T1; excavation of O2-T1; excavation of Q1-T2; backfilling of AI-T1, AI-T2, and any excavations remaining open at A.I.	At A.M.P.—Dr. Clements, Mr. Jameson, and U.M.B.C. student crew At O2-T1—Dr. Lane and U.M.B.C. student crew At Q1T2—Dr. Kountouri, Dr. Theodoridis, and Greek student crew
Week 5 (July 3–9)	Excavation of AMP-T3 and AMP-T4; excavation of H2-T1; excavation (and backfilling) of O2-T1 (as needed); excavation of Q1-T2	At A.M.P.—Dr. Clements, Mr. Jameson, and U.M.B.C. student crew At H2-T1—Dr. Lane and U.M.B.C. student crew At Q1T2—Dr. Kountouri, Dr. Theodoridis, and Greek student crew
Week 6 (July 10–16)	Conclusion and backfilling (final day) of AMP-T3 and AMP-T4; excavation of K2-T1 (if possible); backfilling of Q1-T1 and Q1-T2	At A.M.P.—Dr. Clements, Mr. Jameson, and U.M.B.C. student crew At K2-T1—Dr. Lane and U.M.B.C. student crew

Week X (July 17–23)	No archaeological operations Cleaning and closing of houses and laboratory; cleaning and storage of materials, supplies, and equipment for future fieldwork; transfer of remaining finds and samples to the Archaeological Museum of Thebes; return of rented vehicles	Dr. Lane, Mr. Jameson, Dr. Clements, and remaining U.M.B.C. students
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Arriving in Greece

Students will be advised to arrive in Greece no later than the Saturday before the commencement of a training session on Monday, so that they can acclimate and recover from jetlag. One minivan run to and from the Athens airport on the Saturday afternoon before each session begins and after the last one ends will be made in order to ferry students to or from the airport (the majority of them being expected arrive by nighttime transatlantic flight on Saturday morning). All others will be expected to make their way to Kastro by intercity bus, whence they can easily be picked up by car or minivan, and they will be given explicit directions on how to travel in this way. There will be an obligatory final briefing on the Sunday evening preceding the commencement of a session. In general, students receiving training for academic credit will be assessed on their attendance of obligatory events and productive participation in prescribed fieldwork activities for the total number of hours scheduled (see below).

Daily Timetable

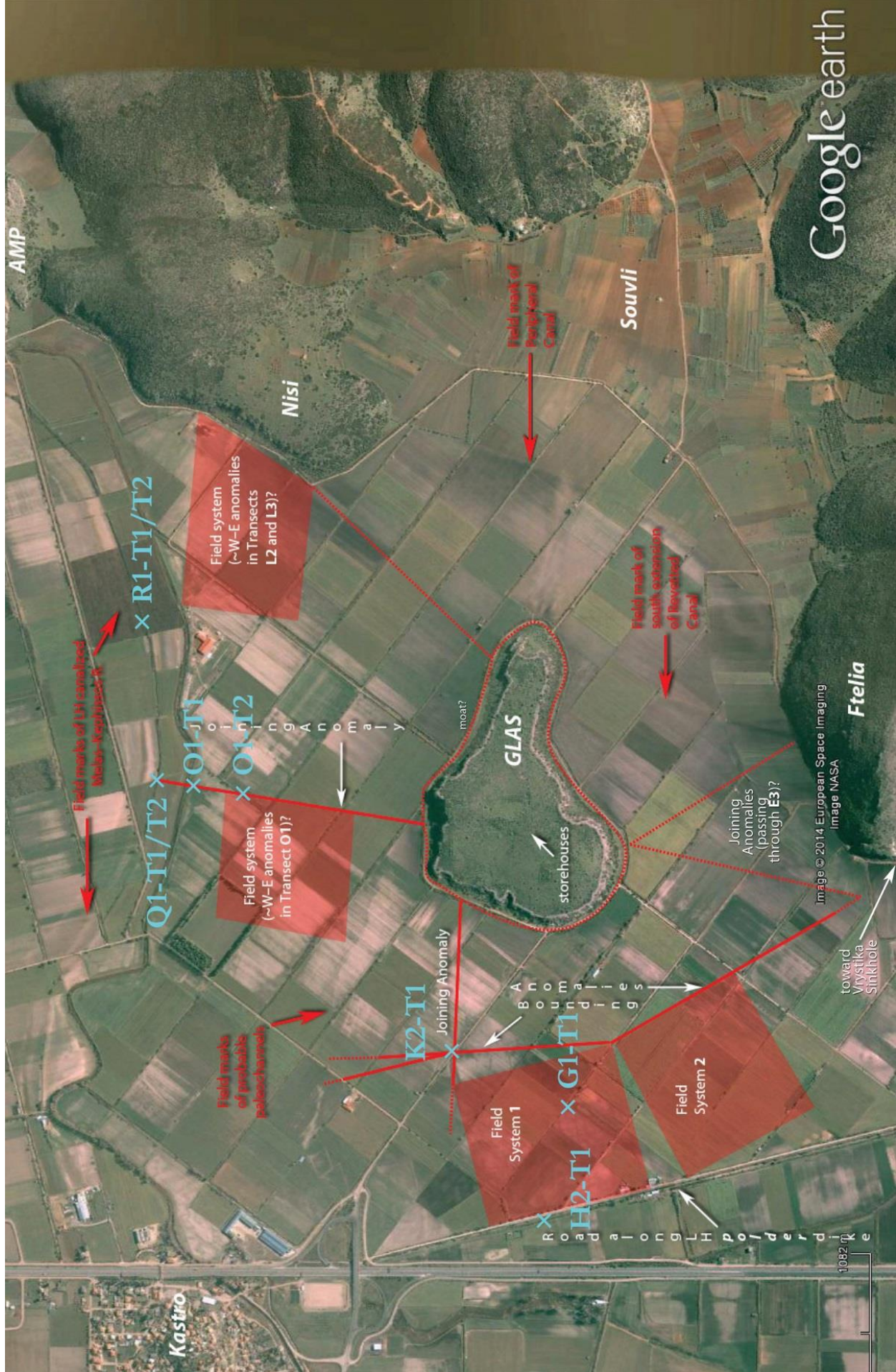
Each day of the five-day working week will be structured as follows.

05.30	Reveille (breakfast left up to the individual students and staff members)
06.00	Depart for work sites
06.30–14.00	Fieldwork (with 15-minute breaks at 9.30 and 12.00)
14.00	Return from work sites
ca. 14.30–15.30	Finds washing and processing (obligatory for students); finds left to dry during siesta; Dr. Lane and/or staff members deliver previous day's finds to Museum
ca. 15.30–18.00	Free period
ca. 18.00–20.00	Afternoon break/siesta
20.00–21.00	Dinner (arranged with a local restaurant)
ca. 21.00–22.00	Evening laboratory period or debriefing and archaeological discussion

The students, like the staff, will therefore work or participate in learning about 8 hours a day, not including necessary breaks, totaling 120 hours during each three-week field training session, or the equivalent of three credit hours at U.M.B.C. (e.g. ARCH 397 Field Experience in Archaeology).

The Beach

Is only 30 minutes away.



Google earth

Image © 2014 European Space Imaging
Image NASA

toward
Vryatika
Sinkhole

1000 m





