

Archaeology in Turkey

Seyitömer Höyük

Dates:
June 30-August 8, 2014



Aerial view of Seyitömer Höyük

Location and Project Description:

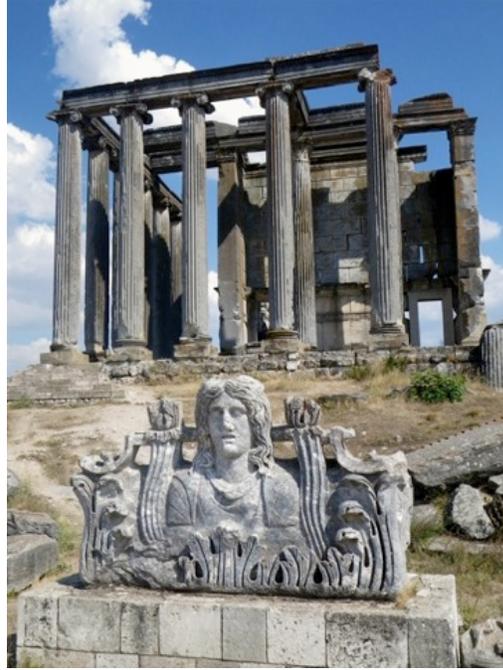
The archaeological site of Seyitömer Höyük is located within the Kütahya region of western Turkey, 350 kilometers south of Istanbul, at an important juncture between the Mesopotamian and Mediterranean worlds. The development of advanced metal technology fueled commerce between these distant regions as early as 3,000 B.C., leading to the establishment of important trade centers linking east and west.

The best-preserved example of such a center is Seyitömer Höyük, where thousands of artifacts and dozens of pottery and textile workshops paint a vivid picture of village life from the Early Bronze Age through the Roman period. The 2014 field season will offer students an opportunity to learn archaeological method and theory in a hands-on environment, while excavating part of this extraordinary Early Bronze Age settlement.

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Excursions and Extracurricular Activities:

This field school will introduce students to the vibrant cultural landscape of Kütahya, past and present. Students will learn about the exquisite glazed ceramics that this region is famous for during an excursion to the Kütahya Tile Museum, and will view a spectacular panorama of the modern city from the Kütahya Castle. They will visit the Kütahya Archaeological Museum to see artifacts found at Seyitömer Höyük, and will take day trips to the Eskisehir and Ayfon archaeology museums, to gain a broader perspective on cultural activity in the region. Students will also visit the ancient Roman city of Aizanoi, with remains of a temple, stadium, and bath complex.



Roman temple at Aizanoi with sculpture of Medusa in the foreground

Qualified guides and lecturers will lead all excursions, offering expert education and insight into the history and culture of Turkey. The lecture program consists of presentations, seminars, and discussions with local and international specialists and includes all facets of archaeology, anthropology, and history. Students will be exposed to the rich and fascinating culture of Turkey, and have the opportunity to meet scholars and students as they participate in this truly international, interdisciplinary and multi-cultural program.



Remains of Early Bronze Age workshops and houses

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Cultural Heritage Management:

The archaeological site of Seyitömer Höyük is situated on top of a 12 million ton coal reserve. Beginning in 2015, a private company will extract this coal, and the archaeological site will be permanently destroyed. Students in this field school will have the opportunity to excavate and document archaeological material from this threatened site, which will make a lasting contribution to archaeology. In addition, they will gain firsthand experience with the ethical issues surrounding cultural heritage management.



Accommodation:

During their time in Turkey, students will live and dine at the Excavation House adjacent to the archaeological site, which is 10km away from the city of Kütahya. Turkish cooks will prepare 3 delicious, traditional Turkish meals per day. Students will have the opportunity to make regular trips to Kütahya for shopping and cultural activities, in addition to the scheduled excursions.



Team at Excavation House

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Admission Requirements:

Applications are welcome from undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any accredited college or university with an interest in anthropology, archaeology, art history, cultural heritage studies, history, museum studies, art, or related fields. A minimum overall GPA of 2.7 is required for admission into the program.



Deadline for Applications:

November 15, 2013

For further details and to register, please contact Laura Harrison at laurahar@buffalo.edu.

Estimated Costs:

All students who participate in the Seyitömer Höyük Excavation Project will pay a Program Fee of \$1700 that covers their room and board at the Excavation House, a round trip private charter bus to/from Istanbul, and local bus transportation for weekend excursions. Delicious, traditional Turkish meals are provided three times per day at the Excavation House during the week (M-F). On weekends, students are responsible for purchasing their own meals. Additional expenses include round trip airfare, passport and visa fees (if applicable), health insurance, and personal expenses.



Ceremonial Megaron building from the Early Bronze Age settlement