

TOBB Economics and Technology University & Eötvös Loránd University & Panteion University & Pázmány Péter Catholic University & Bodrum Institute

ERASMUS Blended Intensive Program (BIP) Syllabus for 6 ECTS

SUI 372 History of Civilizations through Arkeopolitics

by Prof Dr Erdem DENK denk@ankara.edu

& Prof. Dr. Haldun YALÇINKAYA (on behalf of TOBB ETÜ)

Summer Term in 2026

Online dates 4 May- 14 May 2026

In-person dates in Bodrum 17-23 May 2026

Paper Submission Deadline 23 June 2026

Objectives

It has become more visible after the Covid-19 pandemic that the world is going through a very important transformation process. Understanding what we are going through and thinking about what awaits us in the future has become the most fundamental subject of study for all those interested in different sub-branches of political science. The effort to understand radical changes that we have never witnessed before inevitably leads us to take a closer look at Human History. For understanding the reasons of similar radical changes in the past and seeing how they happened can well provide us with some guiding data about the present and the future. Political Science, which in fact conventionally focuses on analyzing the present and predicting the future, has nowadays turned its gaze to the past more than ever. In this context, fields such as archeology and anthropology, which are likely to provide the oldest information, are increasingly attracting the attention of Political Scientists. Increasing technology also has a great impact on the increasing acceptance of the view that in order to understand “what is above the ground”, we need to look at “what is underground”. Because technology-supported archaeological studies are now providing serious data about the lives of past people and the law and order they established. At this point, "Anatolia" also has a special importance. For it has become increasingly clear that Anatolia has a very special and pioneering place in the Neolithization process, which resulted in the

institutionalization of settled farming societies that gave rise to the very first city-States established in Mesopotamia.

Based on this understanding, the program will focus on two main subjects, ie. “Law and Order in Stateless Societies” and “The Invention of State and Its Evolution”. Thus the "50 thousand years of human history" will be re-evaluated basically in the light of the latest data particularly unearthed in recent (mostly Neolithic) excavations in Anatolia.

The course is mainly for Archaeology, Political Science, International Relations, and for other Social Science programs. Yet, there is not any prerequisite so any student from any program can take the course.

Content

Courses: 21 hours online and 21 hours in person

ONLINE SESSIONS (4 May-15 May 2026)

Date	Info for ONLINE SESSIONS (by Prof.Dr.Erdem DENK) Online Link for every day https://tobbetu-edu-tr.zoom.us/meeting/register/qlk5WsSNS_qh7CM5UitqTw For Türkiye, Greece: 7.30 PM – 11.00 PM For Hungary: 6.30 PM – 10.00 PM
4 May 2026, 19.30 (GMT+3)	Introduction: What is Arkeopolitics: Unearthing Politics in a Time of Pan-Crises
6 May 2026 19.30 (GMT+3)	Conceptual-Theoretical Framework of Arkeopolitics
8 May 2026 19.30 (GMT+3)	Stateless Societies of the Stone Age (50,000-10,000 BCE)
11 May 2026 Self-study: Film Screening	The Ballad of Narayama (Available on Digital Platforms) (130 min)
12 May 2026 19.30 (GMT+3)	The Process of Settlement and the Domestication (10,000-6,000 BCE)
14 May 2026 Self-study: YouTube Screening and Further Readings	The Politics of Archaeology: Is the Past a Foreign Country? (50 min) Surviving a Pan-Crisis Arkeopolitics: Reframing Human History From Scratch Arkeopolitics: Unearthing Politics (50 min)
15 May 2026 19.30 (GMT+3)	The Birth of Centralized Bureaucracy and The Invention of State (6,000-4,000 BCE)

PHYSICAL SESSIONS (17 May-23 May 2026)

Physical Mobility	21 hours in Bodrum/Türkiye
17 May 2026	Arrivals
18 May 2026	Opening Lecture Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Özdoğan The Process Leading to the Formation of the State from an Archaeology Perspective
19 May 2026	The Challenge of the Barbarians of the Steppes with the Settlements Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
20 May 2026	The Achaemenid Empires as a Forerunner of the Empires of Middle Ages Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
21 May 2026	The Roman Empire: Europe in the Making? Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
22 May 2026	The 1492 Affect: Invention of the West and Its Liberal World Order The Globalization Affect: Westlessness-Illiberal World Order Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
23 May 2026	Departures

Assessment

The assessment of the term is as follows:

Attendance	25%
Participation/Quiz exams	25%
Research Paper and Presentation	50%

Students who fail to fulfil ECTS requirements will be given a signed certificate of attendance for showing their participation.

GUIDELINE FOR the FINAL ASSIGNMENT

For the Final Exam, each student will choose a subject on the World History In the Light of a Recent Archeological Findings from his/her own country and, with approval of the subjects and, subsequently, the content by the lecturer, you will need to submit a research paper and a video recording of yourself presenting this paper. The research paper and presentation will constitute **50% of your total grade**. The submission date will be no later than **June 23rd, 2026**.

Research Paper

Once you choose your **main subject/week** from the syllabus of History of Civilizations Through Arkeopolitics, you should decide on a unique **subtopic** of yours that is related to the chosen subject.

Word limit for the research paper is **1000 words (-250, +500)**. A 100-word abstract and a bibliography are required. You should add at least 5 sources to the bibliography which must include mainly from required readings on the syllabus (you are allowed to use outside sources as well).

Academic writing rules must be followed strictly. Please follow the guidelines of the Journal of International Relations for academic writing and referencing.

The link to the guidelines: <https://www.ir-journal.com/for-authors/guidelines>

Presentation Video

Each student should submit a **5-7 minutes video recording** where you present your research. No PowerPoint is required, a **verbal** presentation is adequate.

Submission of the papers and Video Recordings

Please send your research papers and video recordings to Prof. Denk's e-mail address (denk@ankara.edu) before the deadline.

Please edit your file names in **Surname_Name_Title** format.

