

Pots and Pictures I: 800 – 500 BC

Prof. Athena Tsingarida

Mondays 12.00pm, Ioannou Centre Lecture Theater

****Please note, no lecture in Week 1 and replacement lecture on Thursday of Week 3 at 4pm**

For the students of the vase option in Mods and Prelims and students of
Greeks and the Med.

Lecture handouts (including a glossary of technical and Greek terms) will be uploaded to the Canvas course page the day before each lecture.

The lectures examine Ancient Greek figure-decorated pottery from the late 8th to the end of the 6th century BC, covering its entire life cycle from production and distribution to consumption and archaeological contexts. While the primary focus is placed on Corinthian and Attic vases - the two most influential and widely distributed productions throughout the Mediterranean world and beyond—the syllabus also explores other regional styles and workshops. Key themes include: The history of the discipline and the contribution of its pioneers; Vessel typology, functions and terminology; Workshops organisation and styles of decoration; Iconography; The distribution and uses of Greek ceramics in the ancient Mediterranean.

Week 1: Setting the Stage

How to Look at Ancient Greek Figure-Decorated Vases: A Brief History of Scholarship.
The Status of the craftsmen.

Week 2: Late Geometric Pottery (ca 770 – 700 BC).

Attic Production: Shapes, Iconography, contexts of use, technique of decoration and style of individual painters/workshops. Euboean, Boeotian and Argive productions

Week 3: The Orientalizing and Early Archaic Period (Late 8th–Early 6th c. BC).

Corinth and the Invention of Black-figure. Athens: The Proto-Attic Production. East Greek Productions: The Wild Goat Style and other Regional Styles.

Week 4: The Craft of the Potter and the Imagination of the Draughtman: Attic Black-figure Vases (ca 600 – 500 BC).

Week 5: Other Black-figure Productions: Laconian, Boeotian, East and West Greek

Week 6: An Era of Experimentation: The Invention of Red-figure Technique and Other Special Techniques in Athens (c. 525 – 500 BC).

Week 7: Reading Greek Vases: Iconography and Inscriptions.

Week 8: Vases in Context: Workshops (Organization and Location), Traders and the Consumer Choice