

Greece

Spring 2007

During the 2007 annual trip, MALS students marveled at the historic sites of ancient Greece and experienced for themselves the power and spirit of the Greek past. Led by Professor Andrea Eis, Chair of the Art and Art History Department, six students visited Athens, Delphi, Mycenae, and Epidaurus from April 27 to May 4. The choice of places derived from the sacred sites that formed the basis of Professor Eis's MALS course, LBS 500, entitled "Athena's Acropolis, Apollo's Delphi: Myth, Landscape, Architecture, and Power." According to Professor Eis, "We were examining how the Greeks in classical times chose places for their work and worship, and how these were situated in the landscape."

As preparation for their journey, students read Greek plays and studied Greek myths as a means to better understand these ancient places. MALS student Esther Goudsmit explained how important both the class room instruction and the travel to Greece were to her own understanding of the Greek past: "I knew nothing about the architecture, history, literature or mythology of Greece except that each was a product of its setting. Professor Eis chose our itinerary and let us explore topics on our own. Even a one-week study tour was invaluable."

The trip was originally planned for the winter break, as was the case of previous MALS trips to Russia and England. However, for various reasons the Greek trip had to be moved to the end of the academic year. For some students this was a decided plus. Helen Basberg and a few fellow travelers were able to extend their stay for an extra week since classes had ended. They visited three Greek islands as well as Medeora and the Greek countryside, all of which extended the pleasures of being in a country they were seeing for the first time.



Figure 1 Tolo, Greece

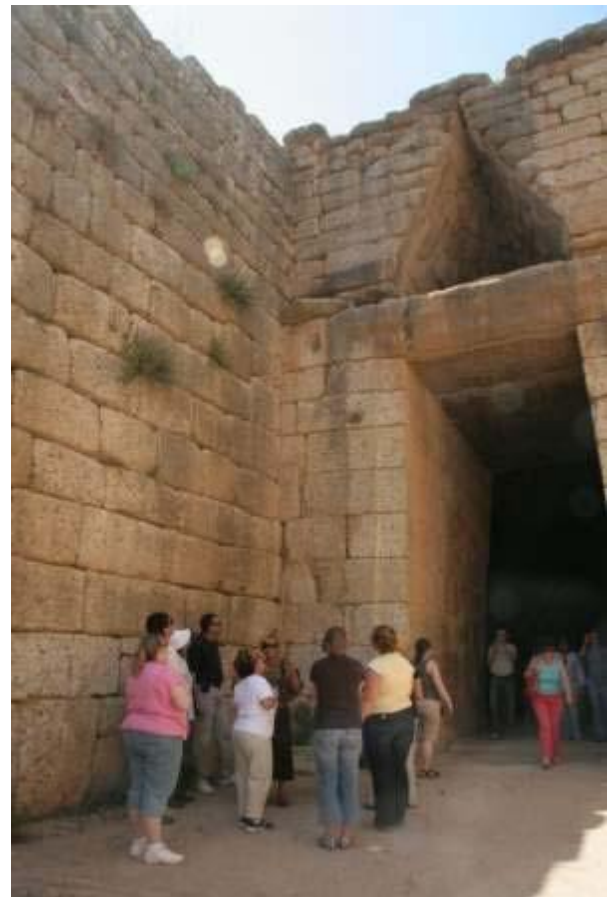


Figure 2 Tomb of Agammemnon