CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

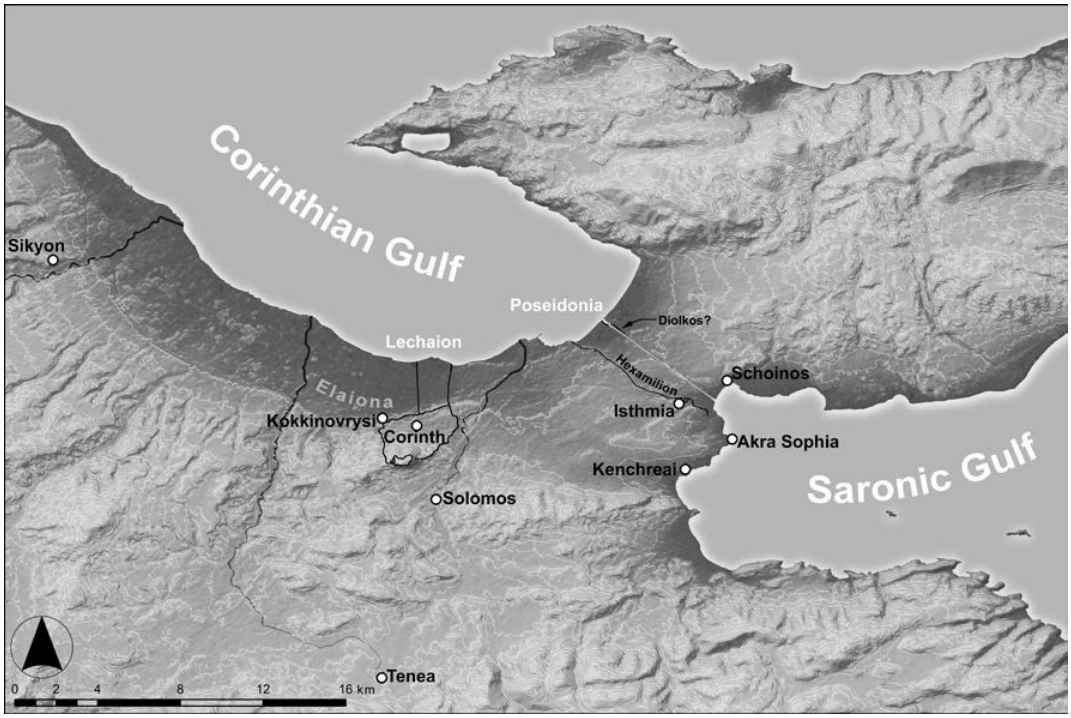
Department of Classics

Case Western Reserve University
11201 Euclid Avenue, Room 111
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7111
Phone 216-368-2348
Fax 216-368-4681
www.case.edu/artsci/clsc

October 19, 2015

Dear UCITE,

I seek a Nord Grant for equipment for a newly revised intensive experiential learning course on *Field Archaeology and Epigraphy* (CLSC 318/418). For the summers of 2016, 2017, 2018 and probably beyond the course of study for CLSC 318/418 will be firmly tied to the Lechaion Harbor and Settlement Project, which is now at it infancy and requires new equipment.



Map of the Ancient Corinthia with Lechaion Harbor on the Corinthian Gulf

The Lechaion Harbor and Settlement Project is an interdisciplinary investigation of one of the major ports of the ancient world, the Lechaion of ancient Corinth, which was active from at least ca. 500 BCE until ca. 600 CE yet remains undisturbed and unexcavated. Corinth itself was one of the economic and cultural powerhouses of the ancient Mediterranean, both because of its high-quality goods marketed internationally, as well as the strategic trading and military location of the city, which straddled the isthmus that was a land bridge between mainland Greece to the north and the Peloponnesus the south and the Gulf of Corinth to the west and the Saronic Gulf to the east. Although the particular goods that were traded varied over time, the port of Lechaion remained a key component of Corinthian economic and military might, and also played a central role in the exchange of ideas as well as a popular disembarking point for visitors to the pan-Hellenic games such as the Isthmia and Nemea.

The surveying (both landscape and geomorphological) and possible start of the excavations of the harbor, beginning in the summer of 2016 (running May 28 to June 19), will provide students with an exceptional interdisciplinary learning experience as a part of an international team consisting of student and staff from multiple North American institutions and Greece. For three weeks, students will gain hands-on training in the methodological practices of field survey, possibly excavation (funds allowing), epigraphical museum work on Greek and Latin inscriptions in the Corinth Museum, artifact analysis, geophysical survey, mapping, and a variety of scientific techniques used in the field (i.e, flotation, photogrammetry, etc.).

In addition, students will engage in studying Greco-Roman history, culture, art, and archaeology and epigraphy. As no archaeological site can be studied in a cultural vacuum, there will also be organized visits to significant archaeological sites and museums in the region, including Athens and sites the Peloponnese such as Mycenai, Argos, Epidauros and Nauplion.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1) To provide students with a hands-on introduction to archaeological field methods, including excavation, museum work with Greek and Latin inscriptions, artifact analysis, geophysical survey, mapping, and other scientific analyses including photogrammetry.
2) To introduce students to the challenges of archaeological and epigraphical research and the critical analysis required for interpretation of raw field data.
3) To provide students a broad understanding of the history and culture of ancient Greece from the Bronze Age through the medieval period through visits to archaeological sites.

MEASURING OUTCOMES:

1) Active, engage participation in field, related site, and museum work, 50%. Students will be expected to be at breakfast by 5:30 AM five days/week (M-F) and take part in our landscape surveys and excavations from 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

2. Material Processing/Lab Work, 25%. Five days a week (M-F) from 3:30-7:00 PM students will be expected to properly process the material they have found that morning or they will work on reports.

3) Journal responses to field methodology 15%. Students will write three journal response of about 1 page on a variety of weekly themes, such as the pros and cons of landscape surveys vs. excavating.

4) Trench Presentations/On-Site Reports. 10%. Each student will be expected to give 1 Trench presentation at his/her trench on a Friday, or one on-site report on a theme connected to one of the archaeological sites we visit on Saturdays.

In the end, the students will be graded on how well they are able to carry out the duties of intensive archaeological survey, excavation and epigraphical work, as well as how well they learn how to assess, via the latest technologies and methodologies, the impact of human agencies on landscapes in ordering and shaping space for their own ends. This will enable them to grasp the spreading of cultural phenomena over space while providing them with the tools to measure, to test and to analyze them – all this while living in a diverse cultural environment themselves.

BUDGET

I have been appointed the Director of Epigraphical finds, and I will mainly be responsible for giving epigraphical training to all the students on the project, both in the field and in the Corinth museum, to which we will have access. I intend to teach students an exciting new cutting-edge technique for filming inscriptions called photogrammetry, which results in 3-D digital images of inscriptions that can be manipulated by various programs to help read them.

Below I give an example of a normal digital photo of a difficult inscription to read that I made this past summer in Turkey, and one of this same inscription a German colleague made for me using his photogrammetry equipment. As one can see, this new technique results in much clearer letters to read and assisted me greatly in deciphering this text. This new technique, however, requires that I have new equipment and software, particularly a new camera and laptop with at least 32GB of RAM to run the Agistoft software (listed below):

-Sony a7r camera (body):	$1,900
-Sony Zeiss 35 mm 2.8f E-mount lens	$ 800
-Sony 90 mm Macro E-mount lens	$1,100
-Novaflex Adapter for Nikon lenses	$ 300
-SanDisk Extreme Pro 64 GB memory card	$ 55
-Extra Battery for camera	$ 60
-Good tripod	$ 120
-Camera case	$ 30
-Portable, shoot-through umbrella/stand/light	$ 140
-Dell Precision 15.6' laptop, Hexacore, 32 GB RAM, SSD for OS and Programs 256 GB+, HDD for Data storage 1TB+	$3,000
-Agisoft Photoscan Professional Software (educational price)	$ 550
-Windows 10 Pro	$ 100
-22 x 14 x 9 hard shell lockable carry-on suitcase	$ 45
	$8,200

If this is too much, I can get the older Sony a7 model for $1,000 (save $900) and can skip the Novaflex adapter ($300). **In which case, the budget could be $7,000.** Needless to say, in these austere times this is way beyond our Department's means to fund.

Regular Digital Photo

Photogrammetry Photo of same inscription

Sincerely,

Paul A. Iversen,
Chair and Associate Professor of Classics

Stephen Haynesworth
Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences