

## A Day in Ancient Athens - University of Sussex – 10am to 4pm - Saturday 11 Feb. 2012

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The concept behind these day courses on Classical civilisations, is for students to spend a day taking a 'virtual' tour around Athens and / or Rome to learn more about their cultural heritage. These day courses are designed to enhance viewing experience by providing background information on key sites that could be covered in a day. We shall broaden the context to take into account political and social history, material culture, literature and drama in order to provide an informed appreciation of the existing sites.

The ancient urban centre of Athens was compact and the famous sites – the Acropolis, the Theatre of Dionysus, and the Agora, but also the less well-known but fascinating burial ground of Ancient Athens at Kerameikos – can easily be visited in a day. We look not only at the art and architecture of the city but also at its history, and the political system that enabled it to flourish and become pre-eminent in Greece in the fifth century BC.

Religion and religious festivals were fundamental to the way the Athenian citizens viewed themselves and their neighbours. Their religious beliefs and the system of democracy, unique at the time, led to the construction of one of the most important buildings in the world, the Parthenon. It also encouraged imperial expansion and *hubris*, which ultimately led to the downfall of the city. We shall examine how all of this affected the art, literature, drama and politics of Ancient Athens.

Finally, we shall consider the legacy of Ancient Greece to later European civilisation, especially during the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

**Contact:** <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/prospectivestudents/shortcourses/x90280>