

History

Department of History and Political Science

History 202: Ancient Greece

Dr. John Lewis Fall, 2004

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Office Hours: Mon & Fri, 3 to 4:00. Before / after class, and by appt.

If you like Greece, please come and talk to me!

This course will consider the political and intellectual history of Classical Greece, from pre-classical periods to the Macedonian conquests. The course will progress from early Heroic poetry through the first city-state settlements to the loss of Greek independence and the spread of Hellenic culture. We will consider ancient Greece from the perspectives of literary studies, history of philosophy, political history, art and drama, and oratory. The course will aid your understanding of the main political and intellectual events in the classical Greek tradition, and the importance of that tradition to the present day.

Primary reading materials, taken directly from the Greeks and translated into English, are the historical evidence we will use. Be ready to discuss the readings for that class. Class lectures are designed primarily to add to the material in the text. The readings are mandatory, and must be completed prior to the assigned class date. Short quizzes will be given, both to assess reading comprehension and to reward those who persevere at the subject. 10 of them will count towards your final grade. The secret to this class is to remain up to date on the readings and the questions.

Two Writing Assignments will focus on the narrow questions in Greek history and thought. For each, develop a title and a theme that addresses the issue at hand. These papers must follow the writing guidelines distributed in the class.

A Research Paper will be the capstone of the course. Select your topic and follow the guidelines from the attached bibliography / research topic sheet. You must have a topic selected by the Midterm exam.

[Research Topics and Bibliography link](#)

NO INTERNET SOURCES ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR ANY WRITING CITATIONS!

The only exception is the use of photos for an art or architecture project.

Grading:	Writing assignments: Each	10%
	Research Paper:	30%
	Final Exam:	30%

Accommodations Statement from Classroom Support Services: "For students who have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs can be appropriately met. It is your responsibility to provide documentation for your disability to the Office of Disability Services, 105 Amstutz Hall, ext. 5953."

Academic Responsibility and Integrity Statement: "Academic integrity must be maintained at all times. No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Such actions will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures documented in the Ashland University Student Handbook."

Primary Sources:

Aeschylus *The Oresteian Trilogy* (Dover Thrift Edition)
 Aristotle *Constitution of Athens* (Penguin edn)
 Aristotle *Ethics* (Dover edn.)
 Demosthenes *Philippics* (Handout)
 Euripides *Bacchae* (Handout)
 Greek Lyric and Elegiac Poets (Handout)
 Herodotus *Histories* (Penguin edn.)
 Hesiod *Works and Days* (Handout)
 Homer *Iliad* Books 1 and 2 (U Chicago edn.)
 Plato *Timaeus* (Dover edn.)
 Thucydides *The History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin edn.)

Secondary Reading:

<http://personal.ashland.edu/~jlewis8/intranetpages/hist200%20Ancient%20Greece.html>

7/8/05

D. Sansone, *Ancient Greek Civilization* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004).

The *Oxford Classical Dictionary* for topics and persons.

YOU MUST THIS RESOURCE FOR EVERY WRITER WE USE

The *Cambridge Ancient Histories* have essays about every topic.

See the bibliography for other, suggested, secondary sources.

Week 1 (8/30): Class Objectives. Historical Outline. The Heroic Age.

Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations.

Classical and Hellenistic Greece.

Approaches to Classical Studies.

Week 2 (9/6): Labor Day: No Class

Week 3 (9/13) Early Poetry and Philosophy. Cosmology, Theology and Justice.

Read: Hesiod *Works and Days*; Homer *Iliad* Books 1 and 2 (Handout)

First writing assignment due week 3: Answer one of the study questions to Hesiod and Homer, and write a paper comparing their views of the topic. 1000 words.

Week 4 (9/20): Archaic Poetry, Mythology and the Rise of the Polis. Moral Values and the Polis.

Read: Lyric Poets (Handout)

Week 5 (9/27): Early History. Oral and Written History. Ancient versus Contemporary History.

Read: Herodotus Book 1

Thucydides, Book 1.1-23

Second writing assignment due week 5: Consider the topic, and basic methodology, of each writer. What kind of history is each writing? 1000 words.

Week 6 (10/4): The Persian Wars.

Read: Herodotus, Book 7

Week 7 (10/11): The Athenian Democracy: Constitutional History

Read: Aristotle *AthPol* Sections 1-41

Herodotus, 3.80-87, Constitutional Debate in Persia

Week 8 (10/18): The Peloponnesian War

Thucydides Books 1 and 2; the Melian Dialogue, 5.84-116.

Third writing assignment due week 8: Consider the Greek view of History

in the life of the polis. How do the works of Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristotle (or Aeschylus and Euripides) demonstrate an awareness by the Athenians of their own historical position, and the distinctness of the values they followed in their polis? In other words, how did such works reflect their view of themselves? Select a theme, and a title, that in some way considers the values that dominate Athenian culture. 1000 Words

Week 9 (10/25): The War and its Aftermath

Thucydides Books 1 and 2; the Melian Dialogue, 5.84-116.

Week 10 (11/1): Fifth Century Athenian Culture: Tragedy and Law

Read: Aeschylus *Agamemnon*, *Eumenides*

Week 11 (11/8): Tragedy, Science and Religion

Read: Aristophanes *Clouds*

Fourth writing assignment due week 11: Consider the Greek views of political order, and their need for law and order, as revealed on the dramatic stage. How did the stage function as a means of critiquing Athenian society? 1000 words

Week 12 (11/15): The Fourth Century Athenian Democracy

Read: Aristotle *Constitution* 42-end

Week 13 (11/22): The Fourth Century Macedonian Expansion and Aftermath: Rhetoric

Read: Demosthenes *Philippics* (Handout)

Week 14 (11/29): Greek Philosophy: History, and Plato

Read: Plato *Timaeus*

Research Paper Due Friday.

Week 15 (12/6): The Philosophy of Aristotle, and the Greek Achievement in History

Read: Aristotle *Ethics* Book 1

[Courses](#)

This page updated 8/30/04

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