

Ancient Greece

History 355

Fall 2011

St. Benedict's Hall 403

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2 pm – 3:30 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 3:30 pm (and by appointment)

This course is a survey of ancient Greek history from the Greek Bronze Age (ca. 3000 BCE) to the end of the Hellenistic Age (ca. 146 BCE). The geographical focus of the course is the world of the Aegean Sea, but we will also study the interactions among Greeks and surrounding cultures like the Persian Empire. Students will learn the major events that formed this civilization as well as the unique culture and thought produced within it. Most historians agree that ancient Greece is a foundational civilization for the entire ancient world, if not also Western Europe and the United States. The Greeks were innovators in many fields of life, having created new forms of politics (including democracy), war, urban life, philosophy, literature, drama, religion, art, and architecture. This debt is particularly deep for historians: it was the Greeks who composed the first systematic histories to investigate the past. In addition to learning about these significant contributions, students will have the opportunity to read and analyze the evidence produced by ancient civilization, and encounter the special challenges to its proper interpretation. Sessions will be devoted to the study of coins and archaeology.

Topics covered in this class include the beginnings of Greek culture; government and the military in Greek city-states; the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars; the rise of Macedon and Alexander the Great; Hellenistic society; and Greek art, architecture, and literature. Readings will involve primary sources in translation, especially ancient authors like Sappho, Herodotus, Thucydides, and Arrian, but non-written sources will also receive attention. The assignments will focus on significant texts and other material produced by Greek civilization

This class is normally open only to students beyond their first year.

Goals of the Course

- To gain knowledge of the historical development of the ancient Greek world, including major events, ideas, and cultural contributions.
- To practice the art of an historian: that is, to learn the defining characteristics of a period and how they changed over time, to understand historical cause and effect, to read the sources upon which historical evaluations are based, and to form interpretations about the period from reading.
- To learn how to analyze and evaluate texts and other materials produced by ancient Greek civilization.
- To improve the ability to read, discuss, and write about the past.

Required Texts

- Sarah B. Pomeroy, Stanley M. Burstein, Walter Donlan, and Jennifer Tolbert Roberts, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society, and Culture*, 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN-13: 978-0195372359.
- *The Classical Greek Reader*, eds. Kenneth J. Atchity and Rosemary McKenna (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). ISBN-13: 978-0195123036.
- Sappho, *Sappho: A New Translation*, trans. Mary Barnard (Berkeley; Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999). ISBN-13: 978-0520223127.
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War: Revised Edition (Penguin Classics)*, ed. M. I. Finley, trans. Rex Warner (New York: Penguin Classics, 1972). ISBN-13: 978-0140440393.
- Christopher Howgego, *Ancient History from Coins* (London; New York: Routledge, 1995). ISBN-13: 978-0415089937. Available as an Ebook from the Ebrary: <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/benedictine/home.action>.
- Additional required reading material will be made available to students enrolled in the course through PDFs or links.

Please note:

- Prepare assigned reading listed on the syllabus before every session.
- Bring assigned reading to class for easy reference in discussion. You should have *The Classical Greek Reader* with you at every session.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and to be punctual. It is the students' obligation to take notes on lectures; I do not produce written copies of lectures. Much of the information presented in class, which will form part of the material tested on exams and papers, cannot be found in the textbook. In addition, students will not gain any credit for participation or group work if they do not attend class sessions. In accordance with Benedictine policy, you may be dropped from the course after four absences.

In the cases of *documented* illness or family emergencies that make it impossible for students to attend class or complete assignments, students are urged to get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible.

Personal Electronics Policy

Students may not use cell phones in any capacity in this class, including making or receiving calls or texting. Students may use laptops or PDAs, but only with the purpose of taking notes or consulting sources. Violators run the risk of being asked to leave class.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected to adhere to Benedictine College's Academic Honesty Policy for all assignments in this course. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism, which (even when done inadvertently) is considered a serious offense and may result in failure or even dismissal from the college. I expect that all exams and papers are *your own work*. Any time that you use someone else's ideas in a paper, you must give credit to the person. I do, however, authorize you to consult as needed with people who can help you improve your mastery of formal academic English. For further information, refer to your student handbook.

Schedule of Classes and Reading

Thursday, 8/25/11: Introduction to Ancient Greek History

Class reading: Lysias, *The Murder of Eratosthenes* (excerpts)

Tuesday, 8/30/11: Studying Ancient Greece: Why, How, and Where?

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 3-13

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 78-88; 281-87

Thursday, 9/1/11: The Greek Bronze Age

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 15-39

Selections of Mycenaean Greek documents (to be forwarded to enrolled students)

Tuesday, 9/6/11: The Greek “Dark Age”

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 41-59

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 3-20

Thursday, 9/8/11: The Eighth-Century “Renaissance”

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 59-68

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 20-27; 35-41

Tuesday, 9/13/11: Archaic Greece I: Politics and Economics

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 70-86

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 28-34

Assignment: First quiz

Thursday, 9/15/11: Archaic Greece II: Arts and Sciences

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 86-100

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 41-51; 86-88

Tuesday, 9/20/11: The Spartan Life

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 102-22

Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus* (excerpts) (to be forwarded to enrolled students)

Thursday, 9/22/11: Political Upheaval in Athens

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 124-39

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 51-58

Plutarch, *Life of Solon* (excerpts) (to be forwarded to enrolled students)

Tuesday, 9/27/11: The Poetry of Sappho

Reading: Sappho, *Sappho: A New Translation*, trans. Mary Barnard

Assignment: First group work project

Thursday, 9/29/11: Persian Wars

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 139-54

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 65-72; 134-42

Tuesday, 10/4/11: Developments in Greek City-States

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 156-85

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 91-94; 106-110

The Old Oligarch (to be forwarded to enrolled students)

Thursday, 10/6/11: Midterm Examination

Assignment: Students must bring blue books with them to the exam.

Tuesday, 10/11/11: Greek World in the Fifth Century I: Society and Culture

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 188-202

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 111-25; 152-56

Thursday, 10/13/11: Greek World in the Fifth Century II: History, Drama, and Thought

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 202-22

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 97-106; 126-33; 145-52

Tuesday, 10/18/11: The Peloponnesian War

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 224-51

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 157-78

Tuesday, 10/25/11: The Greek World in the Fourth Century I: Dangerous Ideas

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 254-65

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 163-70; 187-200

Assignment: Second quiz

Thursday, 10/27/11: The Greek World in the Fourth Century II: Situation of Unrest

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 265-85

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 195-200; 209-17; 224-28

Tuesday, 11/1/11: Herodotus' View of History

Reading: Herodotus, *The Histories* (excerpts) (to be forwarded to enrolled students)

Assignment: Second group work project

Thursday, 11/3/11: Philip II and Macedon

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 288-304

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 180-87; 204-9; 217-24

Tuesday, 11/8/11: Alexander the Great and his Conquests

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 306-29

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 201-4; 306-13

Thursday, 11/10/11: Hellenistic World I: New Political Order

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 331-48

Classical Greek Reader, pp. 229-47

Tuesday, 11/15/11: Hellenistic World II: World of Ideas and Social Relations

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 349-62
Classical Greek Reader, pp. 247-66
Assignment: Third quiz

Thursday, 11/17/11: End of the Ancient Greek World

Reading: *A Brief History*, pp. 364-67
Classical Greek Reader, pp. 269-74; 287-94; 314-21; 325-30; 347-51

Tuesday, 11/22/11: The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization

Assignment: Term paper due by 5 pm

Tuesday, 11/29/11: Evaluating the Career of Alexander the Great

Reading: Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander* (Book 7) (to be forwarded to enrolled students)
Assignment: Third group work project

Thursday, 12/1/11: Archaeology in Ancient Greece

Reading: William R. Biers, *Archaeology of Greece: An Introduction* (excerpts to be forwarded to enrolled students).

Tuesday, 12/6/11: Coins in Ancient Greece

Reading: Christopher Howgego, *Ancient History from Coins*, pp. 1-10; 12-22; 44-46; 48-54; 62-67; 98-100; 111-15; and (towards the end of the book) plates of coins numbers 1-83.

Thursday, 12/8/11, 8 am - 9:50 am: Final Exam

Assignment: Students must bring blue books with them to the exam.

Grading

Paper (10-12 pp.), due on 11/22	25%
Final exam, on 12/8	25%
Midterm, on 10/6	20%
Quizzes, on 9/13, 10/25, 11/15	15% (all three equal weight)
Participation	10%
Group work, on 9/27, 11/1, 11/29	5% (all three equal weight)

Requirements

- The paper (10-12 pp., exclusive of bibliography; due by 5 pm on 11/22) will construct an argument based on (a) a primary source, normally Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* (of which all students must minimally read pp. 35-108; 124-68; 194-245; 290-98; 400-8; and 516-37); and (b) between four and six secondary sources. Students may also choose their own primary sources, but *only in consultation with the professor*.
- Late papers will be penalized one "step" per day late (e.g., an A paper would become an A-; an A- paper would become a B+; and so on).
- Descriptions of the format for the paper and the procedure for submitting thesis statements, bibliographies, and drafts will be distributed in class and discussed. The

paper must employ footnotes for references, use the Chicago Manual of Style format, and include a bibliography.

- The paper must be submitted in hard copy.
- Students who would like help with their writing are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Student Success Center.
- It is within my purview as an instructor to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades.
- The midterm will demonstrate knowledge of significant events, figures, and terms of the period, and an ability to synthesize the primary sources analyzed in class. Students will write essays and identifications of significant terms. To be taken in class on 10/6.
- The final will require a similar mastery of significant events, figures, terms, and sources of the period. Students will write essays, identifications, and analysis of sources assigned for class. The material on the final is not cumulative: the first two sections will focus on what has been covered after the midterm and the third section will focus on passages covered after the third quiz. To be taken on 12/8 from 8 am to 9:50 am.
- Students are required to bring blue books for the midterm and final exam. Those who do not come prepared with blue books will automatically fail the exams. Students are encouraged to purchase two of these early in the semester.
- Quizzes will require students to discuss passages for primary sources they have prepared for class. Students will have to analyze the wording of the passages and put them into a broader historical context. To be taken at the beginning of class on 9/13, 10/25, and 11/15.
- The format for the midterm, final, and quizzes will be discussed in class.
- There are no make-up examinations, quizzes, or group work projects, save for documented emergencies.
- Group work assignments will require students to engage with a primary source prepared for class with fellow students in the group. Students will either submit a written response to questions or complete another activity crafted by the professor. The students in each group will produce one report and will receive the same grade for their final product. To be done in class on 9/27, 11/1, and 11/29.
- Participation grades are assigned based upon your contributions in lectures and class discussion. It is imperative that you prepare the readings assigned for each day before class and are ready to talk about them. Simply attending class does not guarantee you a high participation mark; you must speak about the sources.
- There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- This schedule is subject to change when circumstances make it necessary. Students will be made aware of any modifications as soon as possible.
- Students are expected to read and be aware of the contents of all e-mails sent by the professor.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who need special facilities or consideration should present the appropriate documentation from the Reasonable Learning Accommodation Committee to the instructor as soon as possible.