

Greek and Roman History

History 353

Fall 2010

Library 223

Tuesday and Thursday, 1 pm – 2:15 pm

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Office Hours: Monday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Tuesday, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm; Wednesday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm; Friday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm (and by appointment)

This course is a survey of the ancient Greek and Roman world from the civilization of Mycenae (ca. 2000 BCE) to the end of the Roman Empire (ca. 500 CE). The events and culture of this period are vivid and fascinating, and its sources present special challenges to modern historians. The ancient world gave birth to Western civilization. Classical history would exert an influential place in the later development and imagination of European and American cultures. Western concepts of religion, government, language, philosophy, and art are scarcely imaginable without classical precedents. It was in this context that history was created as a discipline. Our work together will allow us to interpret the evidence from this period, and to learn how to evaluate the broader historical significance of Greek and Roman civilization.

Topics covered in this class include the methods of studying classical history; the formation, development, and dissolution of the Greek and Roman worlds; the paramount political events, rulers, and wars of the ancient world; classical culture and social history including the role of women, artistic and philosophical achievements, and the position of slaves; and pagan and Christian religious traditions. The assignments will focus on significant texts and other material produced by ancient Greek and Roman civilization.

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

Goals of the Course

- To gain knowledge of the chronology of the history of the history of ancient Greece and Rome, 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 the difference between primary and secondary sources, and how to analyze and evaluate primary texts and other materials produced by ancient civilization.
- To improve the ability to read, discuss, and write about the past.

Required Texts

- Lukas De Blois and R. J. van der Spek, *An Introduction to the Ancient World*, 2nd ed. (London; New York: Routledge, 2008). ISBN-13: 978-0415458276.
- Nels M. Bailkey and Richard Lim, *Readings in Ancient History: Thought and Experience from Gilgamesh to St. Augustine (Paperback)*, 6th ed. (Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002). ISBN-13: 978-0618133833.
- Plutarch, *The Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives (Penguin Classics)*. Revised edition. (New York: Penguin Classics, 2006). ISBN-13: 978-0140449341.
- Additional material will be made available to students enrolled in the course.

Please note:

- Be sure to bring assigned reading to class for discussion. You should have *Readings in Ancient History* 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 that will be 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 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.

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 express purpose of taking notes. 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. Only group projects will allow you to consult with classmates. For further information, see the relevant pages in the student handbook.

Schedule of Classes and Reading

Note: The abbreviation for *Introduction to the Ancient World* is IAW, and for *Readings in Ancient History* it is RAH.

Thursday, 8/26/10: Introduction to Greek and Roman History

Tuesday, 8/31/10: Studying the Ancient World

Reading: IAW, pp. 1-5, 22-24, 49-50

RAH, pp. 4-17, 24-32

Thursday, 9/2/10: Crete, Mycenae, and the Greek Dark Ages

Reading: IAW, pp. 29-30, 65-66
RAH, pp. 107-19

Tuesday, 9/7/10: Cultural Aspects of the Greek Archaic Period

Reading: IAW, pp. 67-81
RAH, pp. 120-33

Thursday, 9/9/10: Politics in the Greek Archaic Period

Reading: IAW, pp. 81-88
RAH, pp. 133-51

Tuesday, 9/14/10: The Persian Wars and the New Greek Order

Reading: IAW, pp. 89-95
RAH, pp. 151-75

Thursday, 9/16/10: The Peloponnesian War and its Aftermath

Reading: IAW, pp. 96-110
RAH, pp. 175-200
Assignment: First quiz

Tuesday, 9/21/10: Classical Athenian Culture

Reading: IAW, pp. 110-18
RAH, pp. 200-15, 218-47

Thursday, 9/23/10: Alexander the Great and his Wars

Reading: IAW, pp. 119-22
RAH, pp. 251-56, 260-69
Arrian, *Speech of Alexander the Great*
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/arrian-alexander1.htm>)

Tuesday, 9/28/10: Demosthenes' Speeches

Reading: Two speeches from Demosthenes available at the Perseus Project
(<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/searchresults?q=demosthenes>) under
"Speeches 1-10 (English)":

- First Philippic
- Third Philippic

Assignment: First group work project

Thursday, 9/30/10: Spread of the Greek Way of Life

Reading: IAW, pp. 122-30
RAH, pp. 269-80

Tuesday, 10/5/10: Hellenistic Culture and Society

Reading: IAW, pp. 130-38
RAH, pp. 215-18, 280-99

*Thursday, 10/7/10: **Midterm Exam***

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

*Tuesday, 10/12/10: **Early Roman History***

Reading: IAW, pp. 141-67

RAH, pp. 304-19

*Thursday, 10/14/10: **Roman Expansion and Tensions***

Reading: IAW, pp. 168-84

RAH, pp. 319-34

*Tuesday, 10/19/10: **Social Unrest and Fighting***

Reading: IAW, pp. 185-200

RAH, pp. 334-60

*Thursday, 10/21/10: **Civil Wars and their Resolution***

Reading: IAW, pp. 200-207

RAH, pp. 360-82

Assignment: Second quiz

*Tuesday, 10/26/10: **The Rule of Augustus***

Reading: IAW, pp. 208-20

RAH, pp. 397-414

*Thursday, 10/28/10: **Roman Peace***

Reading: IAW, pp. 221-37

RAH, pp. 414-35

*Tuesday, 11/2/10: **Tacitus' Agricola***

Reading: Tacitus, *Agricola* at the Ancient History Sourcebook

(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/tacitus-agricola.html>)

Assignment: Second group work project

*Thursday, 11/4/10: **Slavery and Work in Imperial Rome***

Reading: IAW, pp. 238-52

RAH, pp. 436-57

*Tuesday, 11/9/10: **Women and Paganism in Imperial Rome***

Reading: IAW, pp. 252-60

RAH, pp. 386-93, 458-67, 473-80

*Thursday, 11/11/10: **Early Christianity***

Reading: IAW, pp. 261-64

RAH, pp. 486-520

Assignment: Third quiz

Tuesday, 11/16/10: Pressures on the Empire

Reading: IAW, pp. 265-79

RAH, pp. 467-73

Two readings from Ammianus Marcellinus at the Ancient History Sourcebook:

- *The Battle of Adrianople*
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/378adrianople.html>)
- *The Luxury of the Rich in Rome*
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/ammianus-history14.html>)

Thursday, 11/18/10: Christian Persecution

Reading: IAW, pp. 280-81

RAH, pp. 521-41

Tuesday, 11/23/10: Roman Intrigues

Assignment: Paper due by 5 pm

Tuesday, 11/30/10: Vindolanda Tablets

Reading: Highlights from the Vindolanda Tablets Online

(<http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/index.shtml>)

Assignment: Third group work project

Thursday, 12/2/10: Rise of a Christian Empire

Reading: IAW, pp. 281-88

RAH, pp. 542-64

Tuesday, 12/7/10: End of the Ancient World

Reading: IAW, pp. 288-95

RAH, pp. 564-76

Monday, 12/13/10, 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Final Exam

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

Grading

Paper (10-12 pp.), due on 11/23	30%
Final exam, 12/13, 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm	25%
Midterm, on 10/7	20%
Participation	10%
Quizzes, on 9/16, 10/21, 11/11	10% (all three equal weight)
Group work, on 9/28, 11/2, 11/30	5% (all three equal weight)

Requirements

- The paper (10-12 pp., exclusive of bibliography; due by 5 pm on 11/23) will construct an argument based on (a) a primary source, which will normally be the biographies in Plutarch's *The Fall of the Roman Republic*; and (b) between four and six secondary sources. Students may also choose their own 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. To be taken in class on 10/7.
- The final will require a similar mastery of significant events, figures, terms, and sources of the period. Some of the questions will require students to discuss primary sources assigned for class. The material on the exam will focus on what has been covered after the midterm, but certain essay questions will require you to reflect on themes we have studied throughout the entire course. To be taken on 12/13 from 1:30 pm to 3:20 pm.
- 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 these early in the semester.
- Quizzes will require students to discuss passages for primary sources they prepare for class. To be taken at the beginning of class on 9/16, 10/21, and 11/11.
- 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 discuss a primary source prepared for class with fellow students in the group and to submit a written response to questions posed 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 9/28, 11/2, and 11/30.
- 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.
- Please note that this schedule is subject to change when circumstances make it necessary. Students will be made aware of any modifications as soon as possible.

Accommodations

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