SYLLABUS
CLAS 121: The Greek World
Fall Semester 2011
TR 3:00 – 4:30 PM, Old Main 002
Instructor: Dr. Brian V. Lush
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Office Phone: 651.696.6820
Office Hours: MW – 12:00 – 1:00 PM
T – 2:00 – 3:00 PM
or, by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

   ISBN: 978-0195156812
   ISBN: 978-0226307947
   Volume I: The Greek Polis. Chicago UP.
   ISBN: 978-0226069357
   ISBN: 978-0140442878
   ISBN: 978-0140440393
6) Grene, D. and R. Lattimore (eds.). Sophocles I. Chicago UP.
   ISBN: 978-0226307923

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will cover roughly 1,300 years of Greek history, literature, culture and social life – by any
standard an ambitious undertaking! We will read a broad array of literary, philosophical and historical
sources, including (but not limited to) Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Herodotus, Thucydides,
Aristophanes, Plato and Aristotle. In general, we will attempt to consume and digest a foundation of
ancient Greek historical development, while savoring the particulars of influential works of Greek
creativity. Having ingested such rich fare, we will discuss and demonstrate our new familiarity with
issues of civic identity, social change, literary creativity, life in the Greek polis, empire and colonization,
warfare and violence, and prominent Greeks’ own responses to their historical conditions.

More to the point, students in CLAS 121 will . . .

1) gain a functional and more thorough understanding of Greek literary, historical and philosophical
   sources and acquire exposure to influential authors and genres.

2) develop through course discussion and written composition an ability to describe and critically
   approach crucial aspects of Greek literature, history and society.

3) strengthen independent research skills by participating in a library workshop and undertaking a
   substantive bibliographical exercise.
EVALUATION AND COMPOSITION OF GRADE:

Preparation and Participation in Course Discussion: 20%
Mini-Exams and Map Quiz: 50%
  Each Exam = 16%
  Map Quiz = 2%
Two 5-7 Page Essays: 20%
Bibliography Assignment: 10%

ATTENDANCE:

You will notice that attendance is not included among the components listed above. Your presence and participation is relevant to each one of these activities, and therefore must be measured as part of your entire course grade. Material on the exams will draw generously from our course discussions as well as from assigned readings, and you will be expected to use what you’ve learned in class in composing each of your essays. Further, the course would suffer greatly without your informed input! You will be allowed two absences without penalty. For each additional absence that is undocumented and has not been cleared in advance by the course instructor, two points will be deducted from your final grade. Further, make-up exams will not be allowed unless discussed well in advance of the exam date (at least a week) with the instructor. Early travel home for fall, Thanksgiving or Christmas breaks will not be included among possible excused absences. If necessary, please inform your parents and relatives of this course stipulation in advance of making travel plans. Final discretion about what constitutes an excused absence rests ultimately with the course instructor.

DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION:

Discussions will often include brief “framing lectures” given by the instructor to provide necessary context for further analysis of the text being addressed or the next day’s assignment. Our meetings will develop organically, according to instructional priorities and your interest in particular topics. You will be expected to take careful notes and follow discussions closely, so that the information and insights gained during course meetings can be used in exams and essays.

Each day, I will choose four or five students at random to respond to a basic question or point of interest about that day’s reading assignment. Answers need not be prepared or polished, and you will not be graded according to the sophistication or cleverness of your answers; this is not an instance in which you will be critically judged or interrogated. Instead, this will be one (of many) opportunities to demonstrate your familiarity with the readings and the degree to which you have synthesized and thought about the assignments. This will be an opportunity for you to propose ideas and ask thoughtful questions, not to compete with your peers. This practice is subject to change according to our estimation of its utility and contribution to the success of the course.

Finally, you will be given reading prompts for each day’s assignment, typically at the end of the preceding course meeting. As you read the material for the next course meeting, take plentiful notes and record your thoughts about the prompts. During the discussion of the readings, you may then draw upon your notes to ask questions and contribute your ideas.

DISABILITIES AND RESOURCES:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, at 696-6220 to make an appointment. Students are encouraged to address any accommodations with me as soon as you become aware of your needs. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/.
Course Schedule:  
*BHAG = Brief History of Ancient Greece  
*RWC = Readings in Western Civilization*

*n.b. Assignments are subject to alteration at the instructor’s discretion.*

**Week 1:**  
9/8 (R) – first day of class; syllabus; introduction to course; in-class close reading exercise

**Week 2:**  
9/13 (T) – The Bronze Age  
HW – *BHAG* 12-35

9/15 (R) – The “Dark Age” and the Period of Colonization  
HW – *BHAG* 36-59  
*RWC* 6-21 (excerpts from Homer, *Odyssey* 2 and *Iliad* 18)

**Week 3:**  
9/20 (T) – Epic Heroism and Foreign Encounters  
HW – Homer, *Iliad* 7 and *Odyssey* 11 [Moodle]  
Map Quiz

9/22 (R) – The Archaic Period  
HW – *BHAG* 61-90

**Week 4:**  
9/27 (T) – Sparta  
HW – *BHAG* 91-109  
*RWC* 22-24 (two poems by Tyrtaeus)

9/29 (R) – Tyranny, Revolution and Democracy  
HW – *RWC* 35-46 (selections from Herodotus)  
*RWC* 228-246 (chapters 1-22 of Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*)  
Thucydides 6.53-59 (Harmodius and Aristogiton)

**Week 5:**  
10/4 (T) – Exam #1

10/6 (R) – The Persian Wars  
HW – *BHAG* 127-137  
Selections from Herodotus (approx. 40 pages) –  
5.30-38 (Aristagoras instigates the Ionian revolt)  
6.102-120 (battle of Marathon)  
6.121-124 (Hippias aids the Persians)  
7.8-36 (Xerxes bridges the Hellespont)  
8.74-107 (battle of Salamis and aftermath) [Moodle]

**Week 6:**  
10/11 (T) – Ethnicity and Athenian Civic Ideology after the Persian Wars  
HW – Aeschylus, *Persians*

10/13 (R) – The Rise of Democracy and the Delian League  
HW – Thucydides 1.89-117 (*Pentecontaetia*)  
*BHAG* 138-164

**Week 7:**  
10/18 (T) – *polis vs. oikos* in Classical Athens  
HW – Sophocles, *Antigone*  
Thucydides 2.34-46 (Pericles’ funeral oration)

10/20 (R) – Spatial, Cultural and Legal Aspects of Athens ca. 431 BCE  
HW – *BHAG* 166-198

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**Week 8:**
10/25 (T) – **Library Day with Beth Hilleman**
   HW – **Paper #1 due**

10/27 (R) – Fall Break!

**Week 9:**
11/1 (T) – The Peloponnesian War
   HW – **BHAG 200-223**
   Thucydides 2.34-55 (plague in Athens)
   Thucydides 5.84-116 (Melian Debate)

11/3 (R) – Mid-Course Interview
   HW – **Bibliography Exercise** due to instructor through e-mail

**Week 10:**
11/8 (T) – **Exam #2**

11/10 (R) – Critique of War
   HW – Aristophanes, *Acharnians*

**Week 11:**
11/15 (T) – Gender and Conflict in Classical Athens
   HW – Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

11/17 (R) – Critique of Democracy
   HW – **RWC 47-56** (“The Old Oligarch”)
   **RWC 224—227** (Plato, *Republic 5.471c–473e*: The Philosopher-Ruler)
   Thucydides 4.1-28 (Athenian Victory at Pylos)
   Thucydides 5.1-12 (battle of Amphipolis)

**Week 12:**
11/22 (T) – Philosophy and the Sophists
   HW – Aristophanes, *Clouds*

11/24 (R) – Thanksgiving Break!

**Week 13:**
11/29 (T) – End of War and Oligarchy
   HW – **RWC 158-166** (Lysias, *On the Killing of Eratosthenes*)
   **RWC 183-206** (Plato, *Apology*)

12/1 (R) – The aftermath of War and the Fourth Century BCE
   HW – **BHAG 225-252**

**Week 14:**
12/6 (T) – Athenian Democracy in the Fourth Century BCE
   **RWC 282-308** (Aristotle, *Politics 7*)

12/8 (R) – Phillip II and Alexander the Great
   HW – **BHAG 254-293**

**Week 15:**
12/13 (T) – Lecture on Hellenistic Greece
   HW – **Paper #2 due in class**

12/15 (R) – **Exam #3** (in lieu of final exam) – 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Old Main 002