

SYLLABUS

CLAS 121: The Greek World

Fall Semester 2011

TR 3:00 – 4:30 PM, Old Main 002

Instructor: Dr. Brian V. Lush
Office: 316 Old Main
E-mail: blush@macalester.edu
Office Phone: 651.696.6820
Office Hours: MW – 12:00 – 1:00 PM
T – 2:00 – 3:00 PM
or, by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1) Pomeroy, S.B. et al. 2004. *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*. Oxford UP.
ISBN: 978-0195156812
- 2) Grene, D., R. Lattimore and S.G. Benardete (eds.). 1992. *Aeschylus II*. Chicago UP.
ISBN: 978-0226307947
- 3) Adkins, W.H. and P. White (eds.). 1986. *University of Chicago Readings in Western Civilization, Volume I: The Greek Polis*. Chicago UP.
ISBN: 978-0226069357
- 4) Aristophanes (trans. A. Sommerstein). 1973. *Lysistrata/The Acharnians/The Clouds*. Penguin.
ISBN: 978-0140442878
- 5) Thucydides (trans. R. Warner). 1972. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Penguin.
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

- 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
 HW – *RWC* 259-278 (Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians* 42-69)
 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