

# **Topics in European History: Classical Greece**

**HIST 388-005**

Autumn 2017

**Instructor:** Dr Douglas Whalin, [dwhalin@gmu.edu](mailto:dwhalin@gmu.edu)

**Course meets:** M 1920-2200, Planetary Hall (formerly Science & Tech I) 206

**Office hours:** M 1700-1900, Robinson B 369B (also by appointments)

## **Course Description**

HIST 388-005 explores the political, social, economic, and cultural history of classical Greece from the emergence of city-states to the rise of Macedonia as the dominant regional power in the 4th century BC. The rich achievements of the classical world are scrutinized through diverse forms of evidence, including ancient literature, artistic achievements, and the archaeological record. A wide array of primary and secondary sources provides materials for critical analyses and better understanding of approaches to the study of history. From language and architecture to social concepts such as democracy, the ideals of the Greeks have resonated across time. Their legacies bind together time and place, tying Greek history to our own.

Texts will be assigned in English translation, so no foreign language skills are required. The course assumes that students have a background knowledge of western or world history.

## **Course Aims**

The course aims that students will become familiar with the major events, people, cultural output, geography and chronology of ancient Greek civilization.

As a result of this course, students should:

- Gain a degree of mastery over new and unfamiliar bodies of information.
- Produce thesis-driven arguments about the ancient Greek past, and support it with appropriately cited primary evidence and secondary interpretations.
- Express their ideas to their colleagues through written and verbal communication.

## **Format**

Classes meet weekly during term. Meetings alternate between lectures and seminars. Lectures are self-explanatory – you’ve all been to them before. Seminars provide the chance for two hours of focused collaborative learning, and are marked with an \* on the schedule.

## **Seminars**

Seminars are group-discussion based, and will centre around a selection of primary sources, a short bibliography to get you started, and an essay topical statement. Essays must be properly sourced and referenced, including a list of works cited at the end, and should be approximately 2000 words in length. These essays will be preparation for sources, topics, and themes which will appear on the final exam. Because they are in effect your initial draft on this topic, individual essays are not given a grade, but will receive feedback and their completion contributes to your overall grade. Each week, two people will open the class with short (5-minute) introductions, one arguing for and the other against the topic statement. Of the 7 bi-weekly essay topics, students should choose at least 3 to do, including one for the week which they will lead discussion. Essays need to be sent to me 48 hours before the start of the class. If they are late, they may not be marked and will not receive credit.

If you are not submitting an essay for a seminar, you still need to come prepared with 1-2 pages of notes – including questions! – based on your reading to contribute to the discussion.

If you are going to miss the session you signed up to lead, you need to arrange to exchange with someone else, and both parties must notify me at least 48 hours in advance.

## **Evaluation**

The course is assessed through a 3-hour final examination, which is worth 70% of your final grade. The exam will comprise 12-15 essay questions, of which you will choose 3 to answer. The final 30% is divided evenly between 3 weekly essays and your seminar participation – including the week when you take lead on the discussion.

## **Resources**

The digital age has opened the study of antiquity in revolutionary ways in the last few decades. There are a plethora of resources available online, including texts (in original Greek and in translation), archaeological reports, and cutting-edge research, both free and by subscription. The following are good starting places.

### **DIGITAL**

Perseus Digital Library: [www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

Internet History Sourcebook: [sourcebooks.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/asbook.asp](http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/asbook.asp)

Ancient Athens 3D: [www.ancientathens3d.com](http://www.ancientathens3d.com)

The Ancient City of Athens: [www.stoa.org/athens](http://www.stoa.org/athens)

Archaeological Atlas of Antiquity: [vici.org](http://vici.org)

## GENERAL TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCES

S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, eds. *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

R. Kebric, *Greek People*.

R. Morkot, *The Penguin Atlas of Ancient Greece*.

S. Pomeroy et alii, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*.

## Miscellaneous Policies

- Number one rule: Respect. Respect your colleagues, respect yourselves, respect my time and I will respect yours.
- There is no attendance policy. You are adults, and you're paying to be here.
- There are no restrictions concerning the use of electronic devices. However,
- There is zero tolerance for disruption – you don't have to be here. If you choose to disrespect your colleagues by disrupting them, you'll be told to leave.
- Academic honesty is expected in all work. Any work that is not the product of the student's own efforts is considered dishonest. Students proven to have been dishonest in submitting or presenting their work will receive an F for the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- There are numerous conventions for transliterating Greek names into English (Ἀχιλλεύς = Achilleus, Akhilleus, Achilles). I do not care what system you prefer to use, just be aware in your reading, and be consistent in your writing.

## Course Schedule

Note: As this is the first time that this course has run, the schedule may be subject to change as the need arises.

### WEEK 1 – 28 AUGUST

Introduction

**Lecture:** Geography & Greek Prehistory

### WEEK 2 – 4 SEPTEMBER

**LABOR DAY NO CLASS**

### WEEK 3 – 11 SEPTEMBER

\*Homer

### WEEK 4 – 18 SEPTEMBER

\*Archaeology and the Physical Past

### WEEK 5 – 25 SEPTEMBER

**Lecture:** Colonization & The Polis

### WEEK 6 – 2 OCTOBER

\*Hellenism and Barbarism

WEEK 7 – 10 OCTOBER – COLUMBUS DAY DELAY

\*Herodotus and Thucydides

WEEK 8 – 16 OCTOBER

**Lecture:** Athens & Sparta

WEEK 9 – 23 OCTOBER

\*Theatre

WEEK 10 – 30 OCTOBER

\*Religion and Mystery Cults

WEEK 11 – 6 NOVEMBER

**Lecture:** Women, Children and Slaves

WEEK 12 – 13 NOVEMBER

\*Philosophy

WEEK 13 – 20 NOVEMBER

\*Art and *Ekphrasis*

WEEK 14 – 27 NOVEMBER

**Lecture:** The Fourth Century: Theban and Macedonian Hegemony

WEEK 15 – 4 DECEMBER

\*Alexander

FINAL – 18 DECEMBER

1920-2215 (7.20 p.m. – 10.15 p.m.)

### **GMU Policies**

- per GMU policy, “If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact Disability Services (DS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through DS.”