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HIST 302.01: Greek Social History

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Greek Social History

Individual, Family, and Civic Life in Ancient Greece

FLLG 302 (1) or Hist 302 (2)

Class meetings: MWF 1:10-2:00 PM, LA 203

Instructor: Hayden W. Ausland (Classics/FLL; office: LA 424 Phone: 243-2125)

Primary Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11 & 2-3

This course examines several aspects of personal, social, and political life of classical times in Greece. Readings are primarily in various ancient authors, with some additional modern material to be considered in the light of these. Through lecture and some discussion we will try to get to know the ancient Greeks; the coursework will call upon students' powers not only of careful and critical listening and reading, but also of written and possibly oral discourse. A short preliminary draft preparatory to a more ambitious final paper due toward the end of the term, a midterm and a final exam, and various other indications of genuine engagement in the course will constitute the bases for evaluation.

Projected Schedule of Topics and Readings

Weekly topic(s):	Reading(s):
Week 1: Introduction; general principles	Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i>
Week 2: Bronze age; early social conditions	Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i>
Week 3: Personal themes in Archaic poetry	<i>Greek Lyrics</i> (tr. Lattimore)
Week 4: Life in the war years (431-404 BC)	Aristophanes, <i>Acharnians</i> & <i>Lysistrata</i>
Week 5: Athenian politics in the late fifth century	[Xenophon], <i>Athenian Constitution</i> *
Week 6: Philosophy and politics at Athens	Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i> Xenophon, <i>Conversations of Socrates</i> (I)
Week 7: Family and friends	Xenophon, <i>Conversations of Socrates</i> (II)
[Spring Break]	
Week 8: Social and Civic Life Xenophon,	<i>Conversations of Socrates</i> (III-IV)
Week 9: Home and leisure Xenophon,	<i>Estate Manager</i> & <i>Dinner Party</i>
Week 10: Problems of social status	Lysias, <i>On behalf of the Cripple</i> *
Week 11: Women of ill repute	[Demosthenes], <i>Against Neaera</i> *
Week 12: Questions after a funeral	Isaeus, <i>On Philoctemon's Estate</i> *
Week 13: Charicles' story (I)	Bekker (Scenes 1, 2, & 5)
Week 14: Charicles' story (II)	Bekker (Scenes 6, 9, & 10)

Exam week:

[see regular UM Class Schedule]

The UC Bookstore has on sale: Hesiod, tr. M. West; *Greek Lyrics* (tr. R. Lattimore); Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, *Acharnians*, & *Clouds* (tr. Sommerstein); Xenophon, *Conversations of Socrates*, etc. (tr. Tredennick-Waterfield); and also (optional) M. I. Finley, *The Ancient Greeks*. It will also make available several items in photocopy: (a) a collection of the items listed above and marked with asterisks; (b) the relevant excerpts from Bekker's *Charicles*, and (c) one or Mansfield Library. In the stacks: general Greek History is shelved at 938 (special topics at 939); classical writers are shelved at 888. More specific treatments (e.g. of women's status in antiquity) may be found shelved elsewhere.