

Spring 2-1-2018

HSTR 302H.01: Ancient Greece

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1/22/18

Ancient Greek Political History

HSTR 302H (Spring 2018) [CRN: 38477]

Class meetings: MWF 11 AM, place TBA

Instructor: Hayden W. Ausland (LA 424; hayden.ausland@umontana.edu)

Office Hours: MW 3 PM and by arrangement

This is a course on both ancient Greek political and constitutional history (social history is treated in a different course) and ancient Greek historiography. Our principal guides will be books written by the ancient historical writers Herodotus of Halicarnassus (his "Histories", "History", or "History of the Persian Wars", as it is variously styled), Thucydides (the book has no title, but is most often referred to as the "History of the Peloponnesian War"), and Xenophon (the first parts of the *Hellenica*, in the Penguin edition called "A History of My Times"), but we will also consult *The Athenians' Constitution* attributed to Aristotle, and several *Lives* of Plutarch. The course has two aims:

(a) We shall seek to develop, based upon these historical sources, a understanding of the chief features of Greek political and constitutional history extending from the earliest times on record through the fifth century B.C. We will with some regularity refer to some modern works of interpretation, but the course will seek to draw information from the sources. The first three authors mentioned are principal among our sources. Note that modern works are not sources; they are of interest because they tell us what our predecessors have thought about the sources.

(b) We shall seek to develop also a critical understanding of the way in which the events of Greek history are treated by the writers mentioned regarded, not merely as sources, but as classical historians, that is, as the historians who have served as models for later historians. i.e., when you come out of the course, you will in principle have gained in corresponding ways.

Class will be conducted as a lecture with some allowance for discussion, and the coursework will call upon your powers of careful and critical reading, and of written and perhaps oral discourse. Written work is to be on the following schedule:

- Friday, February 16th: first paper of three due on a topic announced previously
- Friday, March 9th: mid-term examination held in class
- Friday, March 23rd: second paper due on a topic announced previously
- Friday, April 27th: third paper due on a topic announced previously
- Thursday, May 10th: final examination at 10:10-12:10, in the same classroom

Written exams will be marked with an eye mainly to accuracy and critical understanding. Prepared papers will be evaluated also for their mechanical, as well as substantive, elements (i.e., for quality of the writing as well as content). Students' individual course grades will be based upon their papers, tests, and other indications of effective academic engagement. It can be useful to come to class regularly and prepared and to meet all deadlines. If you have difficulty enrolling, getting to the classroom, or anything else in the way of a disability, let me know; it is my policy to turn away no serious student. But note also the following:

- This course does not admit of a P/NP grading option;
- grades of I (incomplete) are not recorded in this course;
- petitioning to drop becomes more difficult and expensive after a certain date; and
- students' familiarity with the Student Conduct Code is assumed.

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Anticipated schedule of treatment with recommended schedule of primary readings

- Weeks 1-2: General considerations; early Greece and the Near East
Herodotus, Books 1-3
- Weeks 3-4: Greek political organization and Persian expansion
Herodotus, Books 4-6 (to chapter 43)
Plutarch, *Lycurgus* [1st paper]
- Week 5: Athenian Political Development; Conflict with Persians of 490
Aristotle, *The Athenians' Constitution* (chapters 1-22)
Herodotus, Book 6 (chapter 44-end) , Plutarch, *Solon*
- Weeks 6-7: Warfare with Persians of 480-79
Herodotus, Books 7, 8, & 9, Plutarch, *Themistocles* [Mid-term exam]
- Week 8: The Delian League and the First Peloponnesian War (479-46)
Thucydides, Book 1 (sections 1-117), Plutarch, *Cimon*
Aristotle, *The Athenians' Constitution* (chapters 23-28)
- Week 9: The Athenian empire and the causes of the Peloponnesian War (446-31)
Thucydides, Book 1 (sections 118-146) through Book 3
Plutarch, *Pericles* [2nd paper]
- Week 10: [Spring Break]
- Weeks 11-12: The Archidamian War; the collapse of the Peace of Nicias (431-16)
Thucydides, Books 4-5, Plutarch, *Nicias*
- Week 13: The Sicilian expedition and opening of the Ionian War (415-411)
Thucydides, Book 6-8), Plutarch, *Alcibiades*
Aristotle, *The Athenians' Constitution* (chapters 29-33)
- Week 14: The Ionian War concluded and its immediate aftermath (411-403)
Xenophon, Books 1-2 (through chapter 2)
Aristotle, *The Athenians' Constitution* (chapters 34-41) [3rd paper]
- Week 15: Catch-up and review

Thursday, May 10, 10:10-12:10 [Final exam]

Students should familiarize themselves with the texts of Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Aristotle, and Plutarch, and should feel free to use any translations or texts that include book and section numbers for reference. The UC Bookstore has been asked to stock affordable copies of four of the sources for this course, and one translation of the readings from Xenophon will be made available electronically.