

# Ancient Greek History (Hist 3320/CAMS 3254) Fall 2013 Syllabus

## Week One: Ancient Greece & Historical Overview

Aug 27: Ancient Greek Exceptionalism & Ecology

Aug 29: Ancient Greek History & Mythology

**Reading:** Demand Ch 1; Homer, "Cause of Epic Strife" ([pdf](#)), Hdt. I.1-5, Thuc. I.1-23; [Minos & Minotaur Tradition](#)

*What influence of Homer and the Minos tradition can you detect in the historical outlook of Herodotus and Thucydides?*

**Recommended Video:** [Black Athena](#)

## Week Two: Bronze Age Greece In Myth & Archaeology

Spt 03: Greek Origins? Minoans, Mycenaeans and Homer

**Reading:** Demand Ch 2-3; Homer, [Iliad synopsis](#) (ignore the assignment links at bottom of webpage!)

*Of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, which, and on what evidence, can we confidently say was "Greek"? In what respects were either reflected in the Iliad?*

Spt 05: Homer, Trojan War and Mycenaean Collapse; **MAP EXERCISE DUE!**

**Reading:** Demand Ch 4.73-81, Ch 5.105-111; [Was there a Trojan War?](#)

*What evidence is there for the "historicity" of the Trojan War? How much does Homer's Dark Age poetry remember Bronze Age conditions?*

## Week Three: Birth of Aristocratic Greece

Spt 10: Rise of Polis & Pan-Hellenism

**Reading:** Demand, Ch 4.81-97; Ch 5.111-21; Thuc. II.15-16; Hdt IV.147-59; origin of name "[Greek](#)"

EITHER "[Greek Colonization & Delphi](#)" or Parker, "Greek States and Greek Oracles" ([pdf](#))

*How can we account historically for the origins of the Polis (cf. esp. Thucydides)? How did Delphi and Colonization contribute to an idea of common Greekness (= Pan-Hellenism)?*

Spt 12: Early Polis Leadership & Culture of "the Blessed"

**Reading:** Homer, “Funeral Games” (**pdf**; cf. the ancient [Olympic Games](#)), Hesiod: “Works & Days” (**pdf**); (recommended: [“Hesiod and the Poetics of Pan-Hellenism”](#))

*What do Homer and Hesiod tell us about aristocratic values and their (non-military) way of life in the early polis period? What specific complaints does Hesiod raise about them?*

## **Week Four: Archaic Revolutions From Hoplites to Tyrants**

Spt 17: **HOPLITE BATTLE!** *Come To Class with Shield and Helmet & Receive 1 extra Point to final Course Grade!*

**Reading:** Hdt I.6-82; Hanson, Hoplite Experience (**pdf**); Hoplite [Shields](#) (= *Hoplite*)

*What were distinctive characteristics of hoplite battle formation? How did it differ from previous approach to fighting & expand political rights?*

Spt 19: Rise of Tyranny & Impersonal Law (*NOMOS*) **COLONIZATION PROJECT DUE!**

**Reading:** Demand, Ch 6.125-30; Orrieaux, On Tyrannies (**pdf**); Hdt tyrant passages: I.29-34; III.48-53; V.92; VII.104

*Who were the Greek Tyrants and what historically accounts for their successful emergence in the seventh/sixth centuries?*

**Recommended videos: In Search of Troy, on Babbidge Reserve (obtain call number from our “Library Resources” link)**

## **Week Five: Spartan "Good Law" to Athenian “Balanced Law”**

Spt 24: Spartan (Lacedaemonian) *EUNOMIA* (“Good Law”)

**Reading:** Demand Ch 6.135-52; Hdt I.65-67; VI.56-60; [Plutarch on Krypteia](#)

*What were distinctive characteristics of Spartan society and how might we account historically for their development?*

Spt 26: Spartan Expansion & Athenian *ISONOMIA* (“Balanced Law”)

**Reading:** Demand, Ch 7; Hdt I.29-33, 59-64; V.62-94; VI.86-94; Cleisthenic Tribal [Reforms](#) & Practice of [Ostracism](#)

*What did the Peisistratids contribute to Athens and what was the result of their expulsion? How did Athenian *ISONOMIA* differ from Spartan *EUNOMIA*?*

## **Week Six: Asian Alternatives**

Oct 01: Ancient Persia & Ionic Greece

**Reading:** Demand Ch 8; Hdt (Persian Logos:) I.131-40, VI.58-59; (Ionian Logos) I.41-53,56,159-71, V.28-38,97-126, VI.1-32,42

*What accounts for Iranian strength? What were the cultural contributions of the Greek city-states of the Eastern Aegean (Ionia) which the Iranians controlled?*

Oct 03: The Persian Wars

**Reading:** Demand Ch 9; Hdt V.97,VI.94-140; VII.1-24,131-51,175-233,VIII.40-133, IX.19-86

*What precipitated the two wars against Persia on the Greek peninsula, and what was the role of Athens in them?*

## **Week Seven: Lessons of Archaic Greece**

Oct 08: Persian Defeat and the Greek Ideal of “Freedom”

**Reading:** Hdt VII.100-105; VIII.144; IX.122; Hippocrates, [On Airs, Waters and Places](#) 12 & 16

*How did Greeks explain their victory over the Persians and what was its impact on the concept of Greekness?*

Oct 10: **MIDTERM EXAM; Midterm ESSAY DUE**

## **Week Eight: Athenian "Demokrateia"**

Oct 15: Radical Democracy in Fifth-Century Athens

**Reading:** Demand 10; Athens on line: [the Assembly](#), [Boule](#), [Heliiaia](#). *What were distinctive features of Athenian Democracy? In what specific ways did it differ from modern US democracy?*

Oct 17: Democracy & Empire

**Reading:** Thuc I.89-117; [Athenian Navy](#); Aristotle, *Athenian Constitution* 23-24 (**pdf**); Second Athenian League Inscription (**pdf**); [Triremes](#)

*What historical connections were there between Athenian Democracy and its empire? Why might the trireme be a symbol for 5<sup>th</sup>-century Athens?*

## **Week Nine: Periclean Athens I: The New Aristocracy**

Oct 22: “The Golden Age of Greece”: The Ambitions of Pericles

**Reading:** Thuc II.34-46 (Pericles' Funeral Oration), Thuc II.65 (Thuc's assessment of Pericles), Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* (selections, **pdf**)

*How did Pericles promote Athenian Supremacy? According to Thucydides and Plutarch (writing 400 years later), what motivated him?*

Oct 24: Rise of Sophists and Demagogues in Fifth-Century Athens

**Reading:** Demand 12.251-54; Aristophanes's *Clouds* (**pdf**)

*How does Aristophanes depict the new wave of education (represented by Socrates and "Mr. Good Reason") in Golden-Age Athens?*

*How might its "sophistry" be related to the rise of "demagogery" (think of what Plutarch says about Pericles' teachers)?*

## **Week Ten: Periclean Athens II: Winners & Losers**

Oct 29: No Class

Oct 31: Women, Slaves and Citizenship [Source Exercise: "Xenophon on Women" handout **Due**]

**Reading:** Demand 11; Xenophon, *Oeconomicus*, with "Xenophon on Women" handout on course site; Cartledge, "Free vs. Slave in Anc. Greece" (**pdf**)

## **Week Eleven: Peloponnesian War**

Nov 05: History: Overview, Major Factors & Features of the Greek World at War, 431-404 BCE

**Reading:** Demand 12.254-72; Thuc I.66-88, 118-25, 139-46; V.84-116

*Why might Athenians have been optimistic for a short, successful war? What strategies did they pursue?*

Nov 07: Historiography: Thucydidean Concerns & Legacy

**Reading:** Mendelsohn on Thucydides (**pdf**); Beard on Thucydides (**pdf**); Thuc VI.1-73; VII.10-18, 72-87

*How does Thucydides explain or package this war? What modern alternatives have been proposed to his account?*

## **Week Twelve: Aftermath of Peloponnesian War**

Nov 12: Athens under “The 30” and Trial of Socrates

**Reading:** See articles and sources on “Trial of Socrates Report,” including Plato, [Apology](#).

*What historical information do we have about Socrates? Was he guilty of any of the things charged against him in 399?*

Nov 14: Rise of Macedon in the Fourth Century

**Reading:** Demand 13; Isocrates, *Panegyricus* (**pdf**)

*What enabled Philip II of Macedon to take over “Old Greece”? How did his efforts challenge notions of “Greekness”?*

## **Week Thirteen: A Greek Persia & Near East, or From Polis to Cosmopolis**

Nov 19: Alexander the Great & the Rise of “Hellenism”/ **SOCRATES Trial Report DUE**

**Reading:** Demand 14; Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 40-47, 69-72.

*What were Alexander’s major strengths and objectives? What was his legacy?*

Nov 21: Structures of the Hellenistic World

**Reading:** Demand 15; [Athenian Law against Tyranny](#); Diogenes Laertius, *Life of Diogenes the Cynic* (**pdf**)

*What were distinctive features of the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Near East? Why might Diogenes have become a favorite of Athens after Alexander?*

## **Week Fourteen:**

Dec 03: Wrap-up

Dec 13: Final Examination, 8-10 AM, Oak 117.