Cities, Benefactors and the Family in the Greek East
This graduate seminar consists of 14 meetings. Its purpose is to study the role of families in the cities of the Greek East in the Hellenistic-Roman period, roughly speaking the period between the death of Alexander the Great (323 BC) and the third century crisis, which started in AD 235 and lasted until the reign of Diocletian (AD 285). The course will move from a very general outline of the political, social and cultural changes of the Hellenistic-Roman period to a more detailed discussion of the leading men, women, adolescents and children in a number of cities in the Greek East.

The main focus of our studies will be euergetism, a term which was coined by modern scholars to describe the way in which city elites used their own money to provide benefactions to their community. The money was used to provide an immense range of amenities, facilities and cultural highlights. Individual benefactors or a combination of husband and wife or a married couple and their children could sponsor a building, a festival, a market, an embassy to a king or to the emperor in Rome, or pay for the free distribution of olive oil in the gymnasium or the import of grain at a reduced price during a period of famine. In return for their generosity these rich benefactors received honors and privileges, ranging from a golden crown or a statue to a burial at state expense. However, even the awarding of honors could be used as an occasion for demonstrating euergetism. Many benefactors chose to pay for these honors themselves rather than receive them at state expense.

In addition to the 10 meetings devoted to the ancient material there will be 4 meeting in which we will specifically concern ourselves with a number of strategies in research. At these meetings we will practice certain skills which I think are essential in the fields of Classics and Ancient History. In order to do so I will choose material on the topic at hand and practice a number of assignments with you. Our first meeting of the semester is meant to enable us to take stock of the general trends in the history of the Hellenistic-Roman Greek East. If necessary, a fifteenth meeting (in the final week of the semester) could be organized to serve as a roundtable discussion about the topic of your essay.

The strategy meetings will focus on:
Week 12: Reading an academic publication for argument (This is an abbreviated mission statement; we will be doing a lot more).

Week 13: How to identify a historical problem.

Week 14: How to see the big picture.

Grading: The final grade for this seminar will consist of three components:

- 75% of the final grade is based on the paper that you write.
- 10% is for participation and discussion.
- 15% is awarded for your performance in the three exercises in weeks 12, 13, and 14.
Program

All meetings take place in the Greek and Latin Reading Room of Memorial Library on Monday from 12:30 to 2:30 PM.

9/8: Week 1: Tracing the implications of Alexander the Great’s conquest.

A. Cities in the Greek East after Alexander the Great.

9/15: Week 2: The development of the Hellenistic-Roman cities in Asia Minor.
9/22: Week 3: Rivalry and competition between cities.

B. The glories and miseries of euergetism.

9/29: Week 4: Royals as benefactors.
10/6: Week 5: The ideology of the benefactor.
10/13: Week 6: The miseries of euergetism.

C. The role of the family in euergetism and local politics.

10/20: Week 7: Benefactions as a family affair.
10/27: Week 8: Consolation decrees.

D. Women benefactors in the Hellenistic-Roman world.


11/24: Week 12: How to read an academic publication for argument.
12/1: Week 13: How to identify a historical problem.
12/8: Week 14: How to make connections and see the big picture.

12/15: date of submission of final paper.
A. Cities in the Greek East after Alexander the Great.

A1. The development of the cities.


A2. Rivalry and competition between cities.

Texts:


B. The benefactor and the glories and miseries of euergetism.

B1. Royals as benefactors.

Texts:


B2. The ideology of the benefactor.

Text:


B3. The miseries of euergetism.

Texts:


46: Delivered in his native city prior to his philosophical career.
47: A speech in the public assembly at Prusa.
48: A political address in assembly.
49: A refusal of the office of archon delivered before the council.

C. The role of the family in euergetism and local politics.

C1. Benefactions as a family affair.

Texts:


C2. Consolation decrees.

Texts:

*Inscriptiones Graecae IV² 83; Inscriptiones Graecae IV² 86.*
D. Women benefactors and the Hellenistic-Roman World.

D1. The Archippe dossier: the five decrees.

D2. The Archippe dossier: the three new decrees

D3. The dossier of Plancia Magna from Perge
Archippe and Kyme:

Main texts:

SEG 33, 1035-41 (available in Greek and Latin Reading Room).

Publications on Archippe:


Publications on Kyme:


Plancia Magna and Perge:

Main texts:


Publications on Plancia Magna:


Publications on the Plancii and on Perge:


Additional Bibliography


