

History 303: A History of Greek Civilization

Fall 2012: M, W, F - 9.55-10.45; 2650 Humanities



Leo von Klenze, *Idealized View of the Acropolis and the Areopagus* (1846)
Neue Pinakothek, Munich.

Instructor: Dr. Kleijwegt (mkleijwegt@wisc.edu)

Office: 5121 Humanities; Office Hours: Monday: 11:00-12:00.

Teaching Assistants:

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the history and culture of the Greek world from the civilizations of the second millennium BCE until the Death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE. As a course in history all topics, including those in culture, art, philosophy, architecture, and religion, are approached from a historian's perspective. The lectures aim to lift out important problems in the political, cultural, social, economic, and religious history of ancient Greece.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sarah B. Pomeroy, Stanley M. Burstein, Walter Donlan, and Jennifer Tolbert Roberts, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society and Culture*, second edition, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press 2009; ISBN 9780195372359.

WEEKLY READINGS

In order to gain the greatest benefit from each weekly set of three lectures, students should complete required reading before the Monday lecture, and thus be equipped to comprehend the subject matter of each of the three lectures.

FINAL GRADE

Your final grade for the course will be based on four components:

1. A mid-term exam is taken in class on 3 October and will count for 30% towards your final grade. The material that is covered in the exam is taken from the lectures and readings for week 1 up to and including week 4 (pp. 3-101 of the textbook).
2. A writing assignment, to be submitted no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday 21 November. This will count for 30% towards your final grade.

3. A final project, to be submitted no later than 4:00 PM on Friday 14 December. This will count for 30% towards your final grade.
4. Attendance and contributions made to the discussion sections. This will count for 10% towards your final grade.



DISCUSSION SECTIONS

The discussion sections for this course are designed to help you with the material discussed in the lectures and with the specific requirements for your final grade. The teaching assistants will go over the material discussed in the lectures and explain, where necessary, things that were unclear. In addition, the teaching assistants will teach exercises that aim to prepare you for the midterm exam, the writing assignment and the final project.

Attendance of the discussion sections is compulsory. You are allowed one absence and you are urged to contact your TA to let her know when you are not going to be present. In case you have already used up your excused absence and there are unforeseen circumstances (illness etc.) which make it impossible for you to attend your discussion section for a particular week, notify your TA as soon as you can and explain to her the reasons for your absence. If you are absent on more than one occasion without a proper explanation, you will automatically forfeit the 10% allocated for attendance and contributions.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES:

MIDTERM EXAM: WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER

SUBMISSION DATE FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT: WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

SUBMISSION DATE FOR FINAL PROJECT: FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER



The god Apollo seated on an *omphalos*. According to myth, Zeus sent two eagles in opposite directions and they met in Delphi. The stone *omphalos* ('belly-button') marked the spot where the two eagles met and was viewed by the Greeks as the center of the world. Apollo was the main god worshipped at Delphi and the oracle attached to his temple was world-famous.

Week 1: Introduction (pp. 3-15).

Wednesday 5 September: Introduction: Course Outline.

Friday 7 September: Introduction: The Evidence for Greek History and the Geography of Ancient Greece.

Week 2: Early Greece and the Bronze Age (pp. 15-41).



Scene of a Town, Fresco from Akrotiri, Thera.

Monday 10 September: The Aegean Civilizations.

Wednesday 12 September: The Minoans.

Friday 14 September: The Mycenaeans.

Week 3: The Dark Age of Greece and the Eighth-Century Renaissance (pp. 41-70).

Monday 17 September: Homer and oral poetry.

Wednesday 19 September: Homeric society.

Friday 21 September: The Olympic Games.

Week 4: Archaic Greece (c. 700-480 BC) (pp. 70-102)

Monday 24 September: What is a *polis*?

Wednesday 26 September: Political Developments.

Friday 28 September: Arts and Sciences.

Week 5: Intermezzo.

Monday 1 October: Review and Preparation for Exam.

Wednesday 3 October: **Midterm exam in class.**

Friday 5 October: Greece from 650 to 600 BCE.

Week 6: Sparta (pp. 102-24)

Monday 8 October: Lycurgus and the Spartan system.

Wednesday 10 October: Life in Sparta.

Friday 12 October: Sparta in History and Imagination.

Week 7: The Growth of Athens and the Persian Wars (pp. 124-156).

Monday 15 October: Greece from 600 to the Persian Wars.

Wednesday 17 October: Darius' invasion of Greece.

Friday 19 October: The Invasion of Xerxes.



Wilhelm von Kaulbach, *Die Seeschlacht bei Salamis* (1858); Munich, Neue Pinakothek.

Week 8: From Salamis to the Peloponnesian War (pp. 156-188).

Monday 22 October: The Growth of Democracy.

Wednesday 24 October: The Growth of Empire.

Friday 26 October: Life in Athens in the Fifth Century.

Week 9: Culture in Greece in the Fifth Century

Monday 29 October: The Changing Landscape of Athens.

Wednesday 31 October: History-writing.

Friday 2 November: Literature as a Source of History.

Week 10: The Peloponnesian War (pp. 224-49).

Monday 5 November: The Archidamean War.

Wednesday 7 November: The Mutilation of the Herms and the Sicilian Expedition.

Friday 9 November: From Disaster to Defeat.

Week 11: The Fourth Century (pp. 254-74).

Monday 12 November: The Trial of Socrates.

Wednesday 14 November: Xenophon's *Anabasis*.

Friday 16 November: Speeches in Court as History.

Week 12: Intermezzo.

Monday 19 November: How to Create Your Ideal Society (pp. 274-87).

Wednesday 21 November: No class: **Submission of assignment.**

Week 13: Alexander the Great (pp. 306-31).

Monday 26 November: Defeating the Persians.

Wednesday 28 November: King of Asia.

Friday 30 November: The Final Years of Alexander.

Week 14: After the Death of Alexander the Great (pp. 331-383).

Monday 3 December: Political Developments.

Wednesday 5 December: Cultural Developments.

Friday 7 December: Social Developments and Religious Changes.

Week 15: **Work on Final Project.**