

History 801=Classics 801
Seminar in Ancient History
Spring 1997 (meeting time: 3:30-5:30 Tuesdays)
Mr. Clover

THE ANCIENT ECONOMY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fickle humanity steals, discards, avoids, buys, hoards, covets and sells goods and services with such bewildering unpredictability that economists' predictions never have an even chance of being correct. The student who wishes to study the economy of the Classical Mediterranean has the added disadvantage of attitudes shaped by modern industrialization. A society whose majority performed agricultural labor bears no resemblance to the modern world, where most people in advanced countries live and work in cities.

Each participant in this seminar will consider and report on an economic document or economic aspect of the Ancient World -- for instance, Hesiod's Works and Days, Xenophon's Oeconomicus, the economic dimension of the Roman conquest of the Hellenistic East, and Diocletian's Edict on Prices. Introductory discussions on modern attitudes toward the economies of the Classical Mediterranean and pre-industrial societies in general will precede the reports on specific topics.

ASSIGNMENTS

All participants will present an oral report on an assigned topic. In addition, all undergraduate participants will submit in two drafts a final term paper (suggested maximum length: 10-15 pages); while all graduate participants may submit in one draft a final term paper (same suggested length) OR demonstrate significant progress on advanced degree work (especially theses and dissertations). A detailed course schedule will be distributed at the second meeting of the seminar.

A READING GROUP (OPTIONAL)

Students who wish may participate in a reading group which will meet one hour per week in addition to the regular Tuesday meeting time. The group will read in Greek Xenophon's Oeconomicus, the classical work which best treats the realm of economics as it was originally conceived -- a study of the management of the household. The meeting time of this reading group will be set in accordance with the schedules of the participants. The text used will be E. C. Marchant (ed.), XENOPHANTIS OPERA OMNIA, II: COMMENTARIUM, OECONOMICUS etc. (Oxford Classical Texts). Copies of this work will be available as a recommended purchase in the bookstore. For those who do not wish to buy this text, copies of XENOPHON: MEMORABILIA, OECONOMICUS (tr. E.C. Marchant/Loeb Classical Library) will be available as a required purchase at the bookstore. The reading group will start meeting in the fourth week of the semester.

READINGS

- *% Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations. Ed. A.S. Skinner, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% M.I. Finley, The Ancient Economy. 2nd ed. University of California Press.
- *% Hesiod and Theognis. Tr. D. Wender, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% Xenophon, Memorabilia; Oeconomicus, etc. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library #L168 (=vol. 4 of Xenophon ed.).
- *% S. Pomeroy, Xenophon's Oeconomicus: A Social and Historical Commentary. Oxford University Press.
- *% Isocrates, Evagoras; Helen; etc. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library, #L373 (=vol. 3 of Isocrates ed.)
- *% Cato and Varro, On Agriculture. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library #283.
- *% Letters of the Younger Pliny. Tr. B. Radice, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% Roman Civilization, vol. 2: The Empire. N. Lewis & M. Reinhold, Columbia University Press Paperback.
- & Xenophon, opera omnia, vol. 2: Commentarium, Oeconomicus, etc. "Oxford Classical Texts." Edited by E. C. Marchant. Oxford: Clarendon Press (Oxford University Press).
- &% M. Cary, History of Rome Down to the Reign of Constantine. 3rd ed., St. Martin's Press.
- &% N.G.L. Hammond, History of Greece to 322 B.C. 3rd ed. Oxford University Press Paperback.
- &% F.W. Walbank, THE HELLENISTIC WORLD. Revised edition. Harvard University Press Paperback.
- *% Homer, The Odyssey. Tr. E. Vieu & D. Rieu. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.
- *% M. Finley, The World of Odysseus. Revised edition. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.

- *% Polybius, The Rise of the Roman Empire. Tr. I. Scott-Kilvert. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.
- *% Plutarch's Lives, volume 10. Loeb Classical Library no. L 102. Harvard University Press.
- &% Sidonius Apollinaris; Poems and Letters. 2 volumes. Loeb Classical Library nos. L 296 and L 420. Harvard University Press.
- &% Averil Cameron, The Later Roman Empire. Harvard University Press Paperback.
- &% J. R. Strayer, Feudalism. Krieger Publishing Co. (paperback).

Symbols:

- * required purchase, available at the University Book Store
- & recommended purchase, available at the University Book Store
- % on 3-hr. Reserve, H.C. White no. 1191

