

History 110: The Ancient Mediterranean
Fall Semester 2021



Pillar with votives dedicated to Asklepios, the god of healing
Acropolis Museum, Athens.

Instructor: Dr. M. Kleijwegt (marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu)

Office: 5121 Humanities; Office Hours: Monday: 10:00-11:30; on other days by appointment.

Teaching Assistants: Selenay Aydin; Joseph Hanauer

REQUIRED TEXT

Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600*, New York and London: Oxford University Press 2004; ISBN 9780195155631.

The Ancient Mediterranean World refers to all the civilizations originating in the area bordering on the Mediterranean Sea: Mesopotamia; Egypt; Anatolia (modern Turkey); Greece; Rome. This lecture course introduces students to the history and the culture of the Mediterranean World from the cities, kingdoms and empires in Mesopotamia and Egypt (ca. 3000 BCE) to the fall of the Roman Empire in the West (476 CE). The focus will be on the political, socio-economic and cultural developments. After completing this course you will have become more familiar with issues such as: why was Mesopotamia the first region in the area to develop an urban civilization?; were the participants in the Olympic Games professionals or amateurs?; how and why was democracy invented in Athens?; was Alexander the Great worshipped as a god when he was alive?; how did Rome manage to build an empire spanning all the lands between England in the West and Mesopotamia in the Middle East?;

why was Julius Caesar murdered?; what was it like to be a subject of the Roman emperor? What rights did you have if you did not have Roman citizenship?

Credit Policy Statement:

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (each 50 minute segment of lecture and discussion counts as one hour according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for exercises and exams for this class. Below in the Teaching Program you will find the readings that you are expected to have done before you come to lecture. The number of pages is not excessive (on average between 5 and 10 pages per lecture), but you should use your time fruitfully to also study the maps and the lists of events in the textbook. The discussion sections have their own syllabus which is also available on Canvas. It will direct you to the material that will be studied in the meetings.



Terracotta ceremonial mask; 7th century BCE
Nafplio, Greece

Learning Objectives:

By the time you have completed this course, you will have studied

- The most important political and military events of the ancient world from 3000 BCE to 476 CE.
- The social and cultural make-up of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt and other Near Eastern civilizations, ancient Greece, and ancient Rome.

You will have concluded

- That most of the debates in Ancient History are not about when an event took place, but what motivated the people who were involved in the events.
- That evidence that survives from the ancient world is not neutral. A student of history needs to take into consideration who produced the evidence, for what reason, and for which audience.
- In many cases it is not possible to establish the absolute truth of a historical event or a historical trend. It is imperative, however, to construct the best possible argument to convince a majority of people.

You will also have developed important skills in the following areas

- How to identify and articulate the difference between historical events and scholarship which attempts to explain the significance of these events.
- Close reading of primary sources; checking the reliability of historical records.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES (SEE SEPARATE FILE FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION):

Submission of answers to The Ancient Times, Athenian edition: 17 October.

Submission date exercise 1 (Alexander the Great): 24 October.

Submission date exercise 2 (Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus): 14 November.

Submission of answers to The Ancient Times, Republican edition: 21 November.

Submission of answers to exercise on Edward Gibbon and the second century CE: 5 December.

There is no final exam.



TEACHING PROGRAM

Week 1:

Wednesday 8 September: introduction to the course.

Friday 10 September: introduction to the problems of Ancient History.

Week 2:

Monday 13 September: Early Civilizations in the Near East.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 13-26.

Wednesday 15 September: Egyptians and Hittites.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 26-36.

Friday 17 September: Minoan and Mycenaean Civilization.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 36-41.

Week 3:

Monday 20 September: The Collapse of Bronze Age Civilization.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 41-44.

Wednesday 22 September: Greece in the Dark Age.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 54-58.

Friday 24 September: The Archaic Age.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 58-64.

Week 4:

Monday 27 September: Sparta.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 64-66.

Wednesday 29 September: Tyranny and Democracy at Athens.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 66-7.

Friday 1 October: Literature and Culture in Archaic Greece.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 67-74.



Temple of Aphaia; Aegina

Week 5:

Monday 4 October: The Persian Wars.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 74-77.

Wednesday 6 October: Democracy and Empire.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 77-79.

Friday 8 October: Culture in Imperial Athens.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 79-87.



Head of one of the bronzes from Riace

Week 6:

Monday 11 October: The Peloponnesian War.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 87-89.

Wednesday 13 October: Alexander the Great.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 103-108.

Friday 15 October: Greek culture in the Hellenistic Period.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes, pp. 110-116.

Week 7:

Monday 18 October: The Birth of Rome.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 118-121.

Wednesday 20 October: The Etruscans.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 121-123.

Friday 22 October: Government and Society in the Early Republic.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 123-127.

Week 8:

Monday 25 October: Warfare and Conquest in Italy.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 127-128.

Wednesday 27 October: Rome and Carthage.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 128-130.

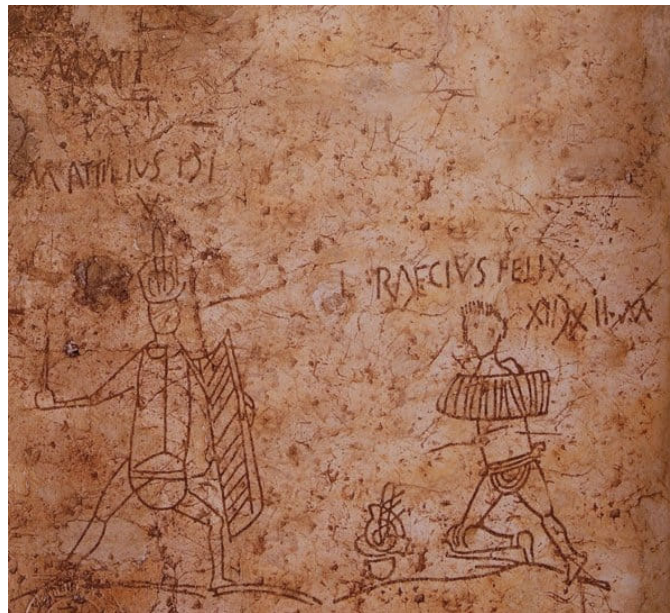
Friday 29 October: Rome and the Hellenistic Kingdoms.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 130-133.

Week 9:

Monday 1 November: After Success comes Crisis.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 133-137.

Wednesday 3 November: The Gracchi.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 137-138.

Friday 5 November: External Threats in the Final Decades of the Second Century.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 140-141.



Week 10:

Monday 8 November: The First Civil Wars.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 140-141.

Wednesday 10 November: The Rivalry between Pompey and Caesar.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 142-144.

Friday 12 November: The Assassination of Julius Caesar and its Aftermath.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 142-144.

Week 11:

Monday 15 November: The First Emperor.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 144-145.

Wednesday 17 November: The Julio-Claudians.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 145-150.

Friday 19 November: The Organization of the Roman Empire.

Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 150-162.



Week 12:

Monday 22 November: Imperial Rule: the case of Judaea.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 165-170.

Week 13:

Monday 29 November: Imperial Rule: the case of Britain.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 170-172.

Wednesday 1 December: Society in Roman Egypt
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 172-177.

Friday 3 December: The Roman Empire from 138 to 235.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: no readings.

Week 14:

Monday 6 December: Crisis and Reform in the Third Century.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 177-183.

Wednesday 8 December: The Rise of Christianity.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 187-195.

Friday 10 December: The Growth of the Barbarian Threat, 337-395 CE.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 208-214.

Week 15:

Monday 13 December: The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire in the West.
Winks and Mattern-Parkes: pp. 208-214.

Wednesday 15 December (last day of class):