

History 110: The Ancient Mediterranean



Fall 2010: M, W, F - 9.55-10.45; 2650 Humanities

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

Office: 5219 Humanities; Office Hours: Monday: 11:00-12:00.

Teaching Assistants:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of the Ancient Mediterranean, and will cover the period from the earliest civilizations to the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West. We will trace the development of communities and cultures; social relations and economic conditions; political, religious and intellectual institutions and thought. The term Ancient Mediterranean refers to all civilizations originating in the area of the Mediterranean Sea, including the early Mesopotamian civilizations.

REQUIRED TEXT

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

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed *prior* to the subject being covered in class. 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 better to comprehend the subject matter of each of the three lectures.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

For the discussion sections students will receive texts (in translation) which illustrate events or concepts discussed in the course. **NB. The final exam will include some of the same textual material, on which you are asked to answer questions. Therefore, make sure that you do not lose these texts, pay attention and make notes.**

ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

The course will be examined through two midterm exams and one final examination. The first midterm exam will take place on Friday 15 October (week 6) and the second on Friday November 19th (week 11). Together they will count for 50% of the final grade (i.e. 25% plus 25%). The final examination will take place on December 22 and will count for 40% of the final grade. The remaining 10% can be earned by attendance (5%) and by displaying meaningful contributions to the discussion in section (5%).

MATERIAL FOR THE EXAMS

For the first midterm exam on 15 October you need to study all the material that was covered from week 1 to week 6. It does NOT include the material that is covered in lecture on the Monday and the Wednesday in the week in which the exam takes place (two lectures on fourth century BC Greece and the Rise of Macedonia), NOR does it include the material discussed in discussion section meetings for week 6. For the second midterm on 19 November you need to study all the material that was covered from week 6 to week 11. It does NOT include the material that is covered in lecture on the Monday and the Wednesday in the week in which the exam takes place (two lectures on the Workings of Empire), NOR does it include the material discussed in discussion section meetings for week 11. The final exam on 22 December is cumulative and will include selections from ALL the material covered in the course.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

Midterms and Final Exam will have a combination of different types of questions. There will be three types of questions: multiple choice questions, text-based questions, and essay-type questions. The texts will be selected from the texts discussed during the discussion sections. In the essay-type questions you will be asked to construct an argument in 500 words or less. The limit on the number of words is there for a reason. It is NOT the purpose that you write as much as you can in the slim hope that somewhere in there you have given me the information that really counts as THE CORRECT ANSWER. The CORRECT ANSWER is determined by how well you can argue your point.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES:

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM: FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER

TEACHING PROGRAM

Week 0: First Lecture on Friday 9/3: Introduction to the course.

Week 1: W 9/8; F 9/10: Early Man and Mesopotamia.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 1-26.

Week 2: M 9/13; W 9/15; F 9/17: Egypt, the Hittites, the Collapse of Bronze Age Civilization; Israel.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 26-39; 44-54.

Week 3: M 9/20; W 9/22; F 9/24: Greece: The Dark Age and the Archaic Age.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 39-44; 54-74.

Week 4: M 9/27; W 9/29; F 10/1: The Classical Age of Greece.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 74-77; 79-87.

Week 5: M 10/4; W 10/6; F 10/8: The Classical Age of Greece.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 66-67; 77-79; 87-101.

Week 6: M 10/11; W 10/13: Fourth Century BC Greece and the Rise of Macedonia.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 101-117.

First Midterm Exam on Friday 15 October.

Week 7: M 10/18; W 10/20; F 10/22: Early Rome.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 118-127.

Week 8: M 10/25; W 10/27; F 10/29: Conquest and Imperialism.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 127-133.

Week 9: M 11/1; W 11/3; F 11/5: The Age of Crisis: 133-31 BC.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 133-144.

Week 10: M 11/8; W 11/10; F 11/12: Establishing the Principate.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 144-149.

Week 11: M 11/15; W 11/17: The Workings of Empire.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 150-165.

Second Midterm Exam on Friday 19 November.

Week 12: M 11/22; W 11/24: Life in the Provinces.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 165-177.

Week 13: M 11/29; W 12/1; F 12/3: The Roman Empire from the 2nd to the 4th century.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 177-202.

Week 14: M 12/6; W 12/8; F 12/10: The Decline of the Roman Empire in the West.

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 202-218.

Week 15: M 12/13; W 12/15: The Collapse of the Roman Empire: What Comes Next?

Readings: The Ancient Mediterranean World, pp. 208-218.