

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II 1986-87

History 304

Mr. Sacks

A History of Greek Civilization II

This course is a chronological continuation of History 303, but the latter is not a prerequisite and no previous knowledge of Greek History is required. The main themes of this course are: (i) the decline of Athens as the flower of Classical Civilization; (ii) the rise of Macedonia; (iii) the conquests of Alexander the Great; (iv) Greek culture, especially in the world created by Alexander's accomplishments. Our readings are mainly drawn from the ancient sources: historical accounts, philosophical tracts, comedy, and various extracts. Emphasis in the course will be on understanding what ancient writers tell us about their history and culture. The course requires a careful reading of the texts, and this approach will be stressed in the examinations.

Lectures: 2/week and one discussion section.

Exams: 6 week, 12 week, and final exams; they will be essay style.

Papers: Four-credit students must write a paper or do some other project. You must have a topic or subject approved by the T.A. or the instructor by March 24. If you cannot think of a topic, it is suggested that you compare and contrast the works of two ancient authors read in this course. Discuss the periods in which they wrote, the literary forms and themes which they adopted and how they reflected and influenced their particular societies. All papers and projects are due May 5.

Very Important: If you register for 4 credits, you MUST do the required written work. If, after having signed up for the fourth credit, you decide that you don't want to complete the written work, you MUST formally drop the credit with the Registrar by the drop day. Otherwise, I must hold you responsible for that credit's work.

Grading: 3-credit students: 30% for both 6 and 12 week exams; 40% for final. Consideration will be given for improvement and for participation in section meetings.

4-credit students: 20% for 6 and 12 week exams and for the paper; 40% for the final. Consideration will be given for improvement and for participation in section meetings.

Books to be purchased

Aristophanes, The Complete Plays of Aristophanes

Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander

Menander, The Dyskolos

Plato, The Last Days of Socrates

Plutarch, The Age of Alexander

Plutarch, The Rise and Fall of Athens

Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War

F.W. Walbank, The Hellenistic World

Reader for 304: available at Kinko's

Lectures

- Jan. 20: Introduction and Geographical Background
- Jan. 22: The Greek World to 432
Thucydides I, chapters 1-23, 89-117
- Jan. 27: The Peloponnesian War: Archidamus' War, 431-421
Thucydides IV 1-41; V 1-24
- Jan. 29: The Peloponnesian War: Folly and Disaster, 415-403
Thucydides VI 1-32; VII 42-87
Plutarch, Alcibiades, 24-39
Plutarch, Lysander, 1-15
- Feb. 3: Social Changes during the Peloponnesian War
Thucydides VI 16
Plutarch Cimon 10, 17
- Feb. 5: The Welfare State
Aristophanes, The Congresswomen
Reader, 1-17
- Feb. 10: Trial of Socrates
Aristophanes, The Clouds
Plato, The Apology
- Feb. 12: Platonic Philosophy
Plato, The Phaedo
- Feb. 17: Short-lived Empires: Sparta and Thebes
Plutarch, Lysander 16-30
Reader, 18-32
- Feb. 19: Rise of Philip II of Macedon
Plutarch, Demosthenes 3-16
Reader, 33-37
- Feb. 24: The Victory of Philip
Plutarch, Demosthenes 17-22
Reader, 38-46
- Feb. 26: EXAMINATION on all the above
- March 3, 5, 10, 12, 24: Alexander the Great
Plutarch, Alexander
Plutarch, Demosthenes 23-31
Arrian, Anabasis
Walbank, 29-45
- March 26: Sicily
Plutarch, Dion
Plutarch, Timoleon
- March 31: Women in Classical Greece
Aristophanes, The Congresswomen
Reader, 47-69

- April 2: Athletes and Athletic Festivals
Thucydides vi 16
Reader, 70-96
- April 7: Homosexuality
Thucydides vi 54-59
Plutarch, Solon 1
Plutarch, Pelopidas 18-19
Reader, 97-103
- April 9: The Successors of Alexander
Plutarch, Demetrius
Walbank, 46-59
- April 14: The Three Kingdoms
Walbank, 60-140
- April 16: EXAMINATION of all material March 3-April 14
- April 21: Hellenistic Society
Menander, The Dyskolos
Walbank, 159-175
- April 23: Hellenistic Philosophy and Religion
Walbank, 176-197, 209-221
Reader, 104-113
- April 28: Jewish Cultural Resistance to Hellenism
Walbank, 221-226
Reader, 114-128
- April 30: Jewish Military Resistance to Hellenism
Reader, 129-144
- May 5: Roman Involvement: End of Greek Freedom
Walbank, 227-251
Reader, 145-152
- May 7: To be arranged; perhaps the City of Alexandria