

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester II 1988-89

History 306

Mr. Lerner

The World of Alexander the Great

Course Description:

This course will survey the rise of Macedonia under Philip II, the conquests of his son, Alexander III, and the spread of Greek culture throughout Alexander's empire. In this respect, Alexander loosed on mankind a force which would in time give rise to new political institutions, social customs, and modes of addressing philosophical and religious issues. The issues we shall address concern the composite Hellenistic Civilization, or imitations of it, which fused together the destinies of the Greek world, the Near East, Central Asia and India.

Lectures:

There will be three lectures each week, with an additional hour of discussion (if the size of the course warrants the presence of a teaching assistant).

Written Assignments and Examinations:

6 week, 12 week and final exam; for 4 credits, a short paper (8-10 pages); for 3 credit Honors students, a short paper (10-15 pages); and for 4 credit Honors students, a short paper (15-20 pages). The deadline for selecting term paper topics is the Friday of the seventh week of the term.

Exams: Will be essay-style. They will require an understanding of the fundamental questions, supported by evidence found in the readings and lectures.

Grading:

3 credits: approximately 25% for the 6 and 12 week exams; 10% for participation in discussion sections, 40% for the final exam.

4 credits: approximately 20% for the 6 and 12 week exams and the paper, 10% for participation in discussion sections, and 30% for the final exam.

Books to be Purchased:

Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander

F.L. Holt, Alexander the Great and Bactria

The Impact of Alexander the Great, ed. by Eugene N. Borza

Plutarch, The Age of Alexander

F.W. Walbank, The Hellenistic World

Reader: available at Kinko's Copies, 620 University Avenue.  
Request Packet #139.

Books Recommended to be Purchased:

Quintus Curtius Rufus, The History of Alexander

A.K. Narain, The Indo-Greeks

A Note on the Readings:

All readings, required or recommended, are available on 3  
Hour reserve at H.C. White Library.

Abbreviations:

(B): The Impact of Alexander the Great.

(R): Reader.

(\*): Materials not available in the Bookstore, but only on  
reserve at H.C. White.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Unless otherwise noted, each topic or subtopic will be the subject of a single lecture. Under each one are the readings for that meeting. All readings, required or recommended, are available on reserve at H.C. White Library.

I. The Setting

- Jan. 25: An Overview of Alexander's Campaign  
No readings.
- Jan. 27: The Greek and Persian Worlds in the fourth century  
down to Philip  
No readings.
- Jan. 30 & Feb. 1: The Rise of Philip of Macedon and His Conquest of  
Greece
- (R) G. T. Griffith, "The Macedonian Background"  
Greece and Rome, vol. 12 no.2 (1965), pp.125-  
138.  
Plutarch, Demosthenes.

II. Alexander's Conquests.

Required Readings:

Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander, entire.  
Plutarch, Alexander.  
Quintus Curtius Rufus, History of Alexander, pp.  
26-49, 66-91, 125-144.

Recommended Readings:

Quintus Curtius Rufus, History of Alexander,  
entire.  
(\* ) Diodorus Siculus, XVII.

- Feb. 3: From Accession to the Crossing of the Hellespont
- (B) E. Badian, "The Struggle for Personal  
Independence", pp.102-112.  
(B) Ramon I. Harris, "The Search for Identity",  
pp.113-122.  
Recommended Reading: (B) V. Ehrenberg, "Pothos",  
pp.95-101.

- Feb. 6: Asia Minor, Egypt, Gaugamela  
Recommended Reading: (B) A.R. Burn, "The Middle East", pp.45-50.
- Feb. 8 & 10: Babylon, The Hindu Kush, Bactria and Sogdiana  
F.L. Holt, Alexander the Great and Bactria, pp.1-10, 52-86.  
(B) Mortimer Wheeler, "Central Asia", pp.51-56.  
Recommended Reading: F.L. Holt, pp.11-51.
- Feb. 13: Three Tragedies  
(B) Ulrich Wilcken, "The Policy of Fusion", pp.66-74.
- Feb. 15: The Rocks to the Hydaspes
- Feb. 17: From the Indus and the Mallian Campaign to Opis  
(B) A.K. Narain, "India", pp.57-65.  
(R) Sylvain Levi, "Alexander and Alexandria in Indian Literature", *The Indian Historical Quarterly*, vol.12 (1936), pp.121-133.
- Feb. 20: The Last Year: June 324 to June 323 B.C.  
(B) W.W. Tarn, "A Supreme Fertilising Force", pp.125-128.  
(B) D.G. Hogarth, "Gaining Immortality", pp.129-132.  
(B) C.B. Welles, "The Conquest of Persia", pp.133-142.  
(B) A.R. Burn, "No Permanent Impression", pp.143-148.
- Feb. 22: Alexander's Last Plans  
(R) P.A. Brunt, "The Aims of Alexander", *Greece and Rome*, vol.12 no.2 (1965), pp.205-215.  
(R) W.W. Tarn, "Alexander's Plans", *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, vol.LIX (1939), pp.124-135.  
Recommended Reading: (B) Arnold Toynbee, "If Alexander the Great Had Lived On", pp.163-179.

Feb. 24:           The Unity of Mankind: Fact or Fiction ... ?

(B) W.W. Tarn, "The Unity of Mankind: A New  
Social Philosophy", pp.77-85.

(B) E. Badian, "No Evidence for the Dream",  
pp.86-92.

(R) A.B. Bosworth, "Alexander and the Iranians",  
The Journal of Hellenic Studies, vol. C (1980),  
pp.1-21.

Feb. 27:           EXAM

A Brief Chronology

From J.B. Bury & Russell Meiggs, A History of Greece To the Death of Alexander the Great (New York: St. Martin's Press, 4th rev. ed. 1985).

B.C.

- 338 Philip descends into Greece. Battle of Chaeronea (August). Philip in the Peloponnese. Synedrion of Corinth. Death of Isocrates.
- 338-7 Murder of Artaxerxes.
- 337 Second meeting of Synedrion of the Greeks at Corinth.
- 336 Macedonian forces sent into Asia Minor. Murder of Philip and accession of Alexander III (summer). Alexander's first descent into Greece; his election as general of the Greeks.
- 335 Alexander's campaign in Thrace and Illyria, and his second descent into Greece. Destruction of Thebes (October). Accession of Darius Codomannus. Memnon opposes the Macedonians in Asia Minor. Aristotle begins his teaching at Athens.
- 334 Alexander begins his expedition against Persia (spring). Battle of the Granicus. Conquest of Lydia. Siege of Halicarnassus.
- 334-3 Conquest of Lycia, Pamphylia, Pisidia.
- 333 Alexander at Gordion. Conquest of Cilicia. Battle of Issus (November).
- 332 Siege of Tyre (January-July). Submission of Syria and Judaea. Siege of Gaza (October). Conquest of Egypt.
- 331 Foundation of Alexandria-toward-Egypt. Submission of Cyrene. Lunar eclipse, September 20; battle of Gaugamela (October 1). Alexander at Babylon (October); at Susa (December). Revolt of Agis crushed at battle of Megalopolis.
- 331-30 Battle of Pandosia.
- 330 Alexander in Persis (January-April); burning of the palace at Persepolis; at Ecbatana. Death of Darius (July). Conquest of Hyrcania, Areia, and Drangiana. Foundation of Alexandria Areion and Prophthasia. Execution of Philotus and Parmenio.
- 330-29 Alexander winters in Drangiana.
- 329 Partial submission of Gedrosia. Conquest of Arachosia. Foundation of the Arachosian Alexandria.

B.C.

- 329-8 Alexander winters in the Cabul region. Foundation of Alexandria under Caucasus.
- 328 Alexander comes to the Hindu Kush; conquers Bactria and Sogdiana. Foundation of Alexandria Eschate.
- 328-7 Alexander winters at Zariaspa.
- 327 Alexander at Samarkand (first months); murder of Clitus. Conquest of eastern Sogdiana. Alexander marries Roxane. Conspiracy of the Pages, and execution of Callisthenes. Alexander recrosses the Hindu Kush, and prepares for the Indian expedition.
- 327-6 Winter campaigns in the Kunar, Chitral, and Swat regions.
- 326 Alexander crosses the Indus. Battle of the Hydaspes. Conquest of the Punjab.
- 325 Conquest of the Malli. Foundation of towns on the Lower Indus. Alexander sails in the Indian Ocean. His march through Gedrosia (August-October). Voyage of Nearchus (October-December).
- 324 Macedonian mutiny at Opis. Alexander at Ecbatana. Death of Hephaestion. Harpalus in Greece (spring). Restoration of exiles proclaimed at Olympic games (July-August). Harpalus' trial at Athens; speeches of Hypereides and Dinarchus.
- 324-3 Subjugation of the Cossaeans.
- 323 Alexander at Babylon. Funeral of Hephaestion (May). Death of Alexander (June 13). Greece revolts against Macedonia.
- 323-2 Siege of Lamia.
- 322 Battle of Crannon. Funeral oration of Hypereides. Change of the Athenian Constitution. Death of Demosthenes (October). Death of Aristotle. Death of Lycurgus (?).

THE END OF GRAECO-MACEDONIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE EAST

Introduction: the nomadic way of life

Afghanistan and Mongolia today -- buzkashi

The political demise of eastern Hellenism: the nomadic participants

Indo-European language family

Iranians: Sarmatians -- Parthians -- Saka (Oxus Treasure)

Yüeh-chih (pronounced 'you-WAY-ger'): Tocharians

the people(s) of Pazyryk in the Altai Mountains

Ural-Altai language family

Hsiung-nu (Huns?)

Hellenism in the vortex of Asia: the Greeks of Bactria

Begram

Ai Khanum (Eukratideia?) on the Oxus River

The Greek kings of Bactria: e.g. Eucratides I (171-155 B.C.)

The cause of upheaval: imperial China

Ch'in Dynasty 221-207 B.C.

the Great Wall

Western (Former) Han Dynasty 202 B.C. - A.D. 9

Some results

the agonies of the Greek dynasts of Bactria

Menander (155-130 B.C.)

the agonies of the Parthians

Phraates III (70-57 B.C.)