

UW-MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST303: A HISTORY OF GREEK CIVILIZATION

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5122 Mosse Humanities Building
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Office hours (online): Thursday 1-3pm (or by appointment); Zoom in Canvas

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 2.30-3.45pm

Sections: **301:** Tuesday, 9.55-10.45am; **302:** Tuesday, 11.00-11.50am; **303:** Tuesday, 1.20-2.10pm;
304: Tuesday, 2.25-3.15pm

Course description

This course examines Greek political, cultural, and social history in the Archaic and Classical periods with a focus on political and social unity and division. We will examine the creation and development of political communities, the different ways in which these were run, how they came into conflict with one another and amongst themselves, and the social and cultural context from which they changed the Mediterranean world.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify key historical events and social/political practices of the period and place them in their appropriate chronological and cultural context
- understand and apply appropriately the specific terminology (names, places, concepts) of ancient Greek history
- analyze problems relating to the reconstruction of historical events and Greek social/political practices with reference to relevant source material
- discuss with appropriate methodological awareness conflicting views expressed in modern scholarship

Credits

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each lecture counts as 1.5 hours and each discussion counts as an hour). 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 quizzes and exams for this class.

Assessment

This course allows you to pick one of four possible paths corresponding to different levels of engagement with the learning outcomes of the course.

C: Basic proficiency

Competence in the Basic Proficiency path will earn a grade of C. You will gain basic competency in all four learning outcomes. This requires you to:

- attend—and pass—20 of 26 classes and 11 of 12 discussion sections
- participate in all in-class writing assignments
- read the required materials for discussion sections
- participate in discussion section activities

Note:

- complete/incomplete grade is given for every lecture and discussion section
- there will be some (no more than four) make-up assignments available at the end of the semester that can be substituted for a missed or failed class

B: Knowledge

Competence in the Knowledge path will earn you a grade of B. This requires you to:

- fulfil all the requirements of the Basic Proficiency path
- pass (at 60%) six online tests spaced throughout the semester

Note:

- any one test can be retaken at the end of the semester

B: Skills

Competence in the Skills path will earn you a grade of B. This requires you to:

- fulfil all the requirements of the Knowledge path
- complete four analytical papers of increasing complexity spaced throughout the semester (1 page, 2-3 pages, 3-4 pages, 5-6 pages)

Note:

- all papers are graded on a complete/incomplete basis according to whether they meet the specifications or not
- you may rewrite one paper if you do not pass it

A: Comprehensive

Competence in the Comprehensive path will earn you a grade of A. This requires you to:

- fulfil all the requirements of the Basic Proficiency path
- fulfil all the requirements of the Knowledge path

- fulfil all the requirements of the Skills path

A student who attempts to complete all the elements of the Comprehensive Path, but who fails to achieve a passing grade in all elements, and yet has demonstrated competence above that of either of the B Paths, will earn a grade of **AB**.

A student who attempts to complete all the elements of either the Knowledge or Skills Paths, but who fails to achieve a passing grade in all elements, and yet has demonstrated competence above that of the Basic Proficiency Path, will earn a grade of **BC**.

A student who fails to complete the Basic Proficiency Path, but has earned passes in at least 14 classes and 7 discussion sections will earn a grade of **D**. Less than that gets an **F**.

Reading

1. HIST303: Coursepack [Please bring to **every** discussion section]

This contains all the readings for the sections

2. Ancient source material

(a) Herodotus, *The Histories*

(b) Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Both are available in the Penguin Classics edition.

[It doesn't particularly matter which translation you use, but the Penguin Classics are easily available, moderately priced, and appear frequently second-hand. Note that if you choose a different edition you need to be aware of, and accept, the inconveniences this may cause you.]

3. Textbook options

Pomeroy, Sarah, S.M. Burstein, Walter Donlan, and J.T. Roberts. *A Brief History of Ancient Greece. Politics, Society and Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [you can get either the 3rd edition (2014) or the 4th edition (2019); the references below are to the 4th edition]

Hall, J.M. 2007. *A History of the Archaic Greek World*. London: Blackwell.

Hornblower, S. 2011. *The Greek World, 479-323 BC*. 4th edn. London: Routledge.

Rhodes, P.J. 2006. *A History of the Classical Greek World, 478-323 BC*. 2nd edn. London: Blackwell.

Class topics

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Deadlines*
1	Wed 8 Sept	Introduction		
		<i>Who were the Greeks?</i>		
2	Mon 13 Sept	How do we know what we know?		
	Tues 14 Sept	Section: evidence	Coursepack week 2	
	Wed 15 Sept	The polis and other state forms	Pomeroy ch. 1-2	
		<i>The Greek world takes shape</i>		
3	Mon 20 Sept	The expanding Greek world		
	Tues 21 Sept	Section: Greek settlements overseas	Coursepack week 3	
	Wed 22 Sept	Aristocrats, farmers, citizens and slaves	Pomeroy ch. 3	Quiz 1
		<i>The polis and the archaic world</i>		
4	Mon 27 Sept	Lawgivers and tyrants		
	Tues 28 Sept	Section: Tyranny	Coursepack week 4	
	Wed 29 Sept	Political change in Athens: Peisistratos		Paper 1
		<i>Tyranny and political change in Athens</i>		
5	Mon 4 Oct	Political change in Athens: Kleisthenes		
	Tues 5 Oct	Section: Solon	Coursepack week 5	
	Wed 6 Oct	Athenian democracy	Pomeroy ch. 5	Quiz 2
		<i>The Persian Wars</i>		
6	Mon 11 Oct	Persia and the Persian Wars		
	Tues 12 Oct	Section: Persia	Coursepack week 6	
	Wed 13 Oct	Aspects of Greek religion		Paper 2
		<i>The growth of Athenian power and the outbreak of war</i>		
7	Mon 18 Oct	Between the wars		
	Tues 19 Oct	Section: The <i>pentakontaetia</i>	Coursepack week 7	
	Wed 20 Oct	The lead up to the Peloponnesian War	Pomeroy ch. 6	Quiz 3
		<i>The Peloponnesian War</i>		
8	Mon 25 Oct	The Peloponnesian War		
	Tues 26 Oct	Section: The plague	Coursepack week 8	
	Wed 27 Oct	The Peloponnesian War	Pomeroy ch. 7-8	
		<i>The (Athenian) world falls apart</i>		
9	Mon 1 Nov	The end of the Peloponnesian War and the fallout		
	Tues 2 Nov	Section: Episodes from the Peloponnesian War	Coursepack week 9	

	Wed 3 Nov	The effects of war	Pomeroy ch. 9	Quiz 4
		<i>Citizens and slaves</i>		
10	Mon 8 Nov	Slaves and other non-citizen groups in Athens and Sparta		
	Tues 9 Nov	Section: Helots	Coursepack week 10	
	Wed 10 Nov	Slaves and other non-citizen groups in Athens and Sparta	Pomeroy ch. 4	Paper 3
		<i>Family life</i>		
11	Mon 15 Nov	The household		
	Tues 16 Nov	Section: Women and children	Coursepack week 11	
	Wed 17 Nov	Children and the family		Quiz 5
		<i>The fourth century: Philip and Alexander the Great</i>		
12	Mon 22 Nov	Macedonian expansion	Pomeroy ch. 10	
	Tues 23 Nov	No sections		
	Wed 24 Nov	No class (Thanksgiving)		
		<i>Alexander changes the world</i>		
13	Mon 29 Nov	Alexander's rule		
	Tues 30 Nov	Section: Philip, Alexander, and the Greeks	Coursepack week 13	
	Wed 1 Dec	Alexander's rule	Pomeroy ch. 11	Paper 4
		<i>Life in the Hellenistic period</i>		
14	Mon 6 Dec	The Successors		
	Tues 7 Dec	Section: Hellenistic Egypt	Coursepack week 14	
	Wed 8 Dec	Greeks in Egypt	Pomeroy ch. 12	Quiz 6
15	Mon 13 Dec	Catch-up week		
	Tues 14 Dec	No sections		
	Wed 15 Dec			

* **NB: All deadlines are Friday, 5pm on the week in which they appear**

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Discussion sections

In order to expand, reinforce and develop material from lectures, discussion sections provide the chance for **you** to analyze ancient source material, gain familiarity with modern scholarship, and debate relevant questions and issues. These sessions are compulsory: you need to attend and participate in the discussion after having done the readings.

Most of the material for sections are available in the coursepack. **You need to bring the material for discussion (i.e. the coursepack) to section.**

The History Lab

New this semester, the History Lab is a resource center where experts (TAs) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process—choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts—the History Lab staff are here, along with your professors and teaching assistants, to help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>

Goals of the History Major

The goal of the history major is to offer students the knowledge and skills they need to gain a critical perspective on the past. Students will learn to define important historical questions, analyze relevant evidence with rigor and creativity, and present convincing arguments and conclusions based on original research in a manner that contributes to academic and public discussions. In History, as in other humanistic disciplines, students will practice resourceful inquiry and careful reading. They will advance their writing and public speaking skills to engage historical and contemporary issues.

To ensure that students gain exposure to some of the great diversity of topics, methodologies, and philosophical concerns that inform the study of history, the department requires a combination of courses that offers breadth, depth, and variety of exposition. Through those courses, students should develop:

1. Broad acquaintance with several geographic areas of the world and with both the pre-modern and modern eras.
2. Familiarity with the range of sources and modes through which historical information can be found and expressed. Sources may include textual, oral, physical, and visual materials. The data within them may be qualitative or quantitative, and they may be available in printed, digital, or other formats. Modes of expression may include textbooks, monographs, scholarly articles, essays, literary works, or digital presentations.
3. In-depth understanding of a topic of their choice through original or creative research.
4. The ability to identify the skills developed in the history major and to articulate the applicability of those skills to a variety of endeavors and career paths beyond the professional practice of history.