

History 600/Advanced Undergraduate Seminar in History
Spring Semester 1997
Mr. Clover

THE ANCIENT ECONOMY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fickle humanity steals, discards, avoids, buys, hoards, covets and sells goods and services with such bewildering unpredictability that economists' predictions never have an even chance of being correct. The student who wishes to study the economy of the Classical Mediterranean has the added disadvantage of attitudes shaped by modern industrialization. A society whose majority performed agricultural labor bears no resemblance to the modern world, where most people in advanced countries live and work in cities.

Each participant in this seminar will consider and report on an economic document or economic aspect of the Ancient World -- for instance, Hesiod's Works and Days, Xenophon's Oeconomicus, the economic dimension of the Roman conquest of the Hellenistic East, and Diocletian's Edict on Prices. Introductory discussions on modern attitudes toward the economies of the Classical Mediterranean and pre-industrial societies in general will precede the reports on specific topics.

MEETING TIME

One two-hour meeting each week [Tuesdays, 3:30 until 5:30 p.m.].

ASSIGNMENTS

Each participant will present one oral report on an assigned topic pertinent to the theme of the seminar. In addition, each participant will submit a final term paper on a topic to be negotiated with the instructor. The paper topic should be related to the theme of the seminar. The final term paper must be produced in three stages: Stage One -- submit in writing a one-paragraph announcement of the chosen term paper topic by the seminar meeting in the third week of the semester; Stage Two -- submit a first draft of the term paper [suggested maximum length: 10 pages] by the seminar meeting in the ninth week of the semester; Stage Three -- submit a revised second draft of the term paper [suggested maximum length: 15 to 20 pages] during the final examination period, no later than one week after the last seminar meeting.

GRADING SYSTEM

First draft of paper 30%, second draft 35%, seminar participation and report 35% of final grade.

READINGS

- *% Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations. Ed. A.S. Skinner, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% The Ancient Economy. 2nd ed. University of California Press.
- *% Hesiod and Theognis. Tr. D. Wender, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% Xenophon, Memorabilia; Oeconomicus, etc. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library #168 (=vol. 4 of Xenophon ed.).
- % S. Pomeroy, Xenophon's Oeconomicus: A Social and Historical Commentary. Oxford University Press.
- *% Isocrates, Evagoras; Helen, etc. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library, #L373 (=vol. 3 of Isocrates ed.)
- *% Cato and Varro, On Agriculture. Harvard University Press: Loeb Classical Library #283.
- *% Letters of the Younger Pliny. Tr. B. Radice, Viking Penguin: Penguin Classics.
- *% Roman Civilization, vol. 2: The Empire. N. Lewis & M. Reinhold, Columbia University Press Paperback.
- &% M. Cary, History of Rome Down to the Reign of Constantine. 3rd ed, St. Martin's Press.
- &% N.G.L. Hammond, History of Greece to 322 B.C. 3rd ed. Oxford University Press Paperback.
- &% F. W. Walbank, The Hellenistic World. Revised edition. Harvard University Press Paperback.
- *% Homer, The Odyssey. Tr. E. and D. Rieu. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.
- *% M. Finley, The World of Odysseus. Revised edition. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.
- *% Polybius, The Rise of the Roman Empire. Tr. I. Scott-Kilvert. Penguin Books/Penguin Classics.
- *% Plutarch's Lives, volume 10. Loeb Classical Library no. L 102. Harvard University Press.
- &% Sidonius Apollinaris: Poems and Letters. 2 volumes. Loeb Classical Library nos. L 296 and L 420. Harvard University Press.
- &% Averil Cameron, THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE. Harvard University Press Paperback.
- &% J. R. Strayer, FEUDALISM. Krieger Publishing Co. (paperback).

Symbols:

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& recommended purchase, available at the University Book Store