

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. in Francis Scott Key Hall 0106

Discussion sections: various times during the week

Dr. Eckstein's office hours: Fridays from 11 until 2, in tlf 2134.

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This course serves as an introduction to the cultures of the Ancient Mediterranean--cultures upon which much of our own Western civilization is itself based. The major emphasis in the course is on attempting to see the people of the ancient world as real people, dealing with real problems, and in the course of their struggle creating much of the particular political, cultural and intellectual orientation which still characterizes the West.

After a short discussion of the river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, we will examine in detail the most important and typical of the political institutions of ancient Greece: the city-state, or *polis*. It was in the *polis*, especially at Athens, that there developed the concept of the individual as citizen: a person independent of the state, yet also politically responsible. As an example of *polis*-culture at its height, we will then read the play *Antigone* by Sophocles (ca. 442 B.C.). This play deals in a complex way with the responsibilities of a citizen to both the state and to one's conscience. In the end, *polis*-culture terribly damaged itself in a great war between Athens and Sparta; we will read selections from the historian of that war, the Athenian writer Thucydides (who also invented political science as an intellectual discipline). The Republic of Rome eventually conquered all the Greek states, and our examination of Greek civilization will be followed by an examination of Republican Rome. The Romans were by far the most materially successful people of the Ancient Mediterranean. We will look first at the political and cultural institutions of the Roman Republic, especially as seen through the eyes of Greek intellectuals (Polybius and Plutarch), then at Rome's rise to domination of the entire Mediterranean world, and then at the replacement of the Republic by one-man rule (the Emperors). At the end of the course, we will examine the Jews under Roman rule, and the birth of Christianity.

Students taking History 110 are naturally expected to absorb a substantial amount of factual information. Even more important than straight factual information, however, will be your development of a real understanding of ancient ideas, concepts, people, and often-tragic processes. While there is a textbook, the focus of the reading will be on works by ancient Greeks and Romans (and a Christian or two)--works by the ancient people themselves, what historians call primary sources.

There will be a Mid-Term Examination (counting for 30% of your grade), and a Final Examination (counting for 40% of your grade). In addition, there will be a short paper (six to eight pages), which comes in the first half of the course, and which will count for 20% of your grade. This paper will be an analytical question concerning the issues in *Antigone*. And 10% of your grade will depend upon your performance in the discussion-sections, run by the teaching assistants. Each student must be enrolled in a discussion-section, and attendance in that discussion is absolutely mandatory. In discussion you will go over the reading for the

week, and go over the lectures, so that you will gain a better comprehension of the material in the course. So: attendance in discussion-section is not only required, it is for your own good. But attendance alone is not sufficient: you must come prepared to participate actively in discussions, by having attended the lectures, done the reading carefully, and thought about both.

In lectures, serious questions are welcomed. But turn off all cell-phones—which are highly disruptive. No one is required to come to lecture, but the purpose of the lectures is to serve especially as a guide to the reading, so if you do not come to lecture, the chances of your doing well in this class are dim.

### Schedule of Lectures, and Readings

#### Week I (Sept 1-3)

Sept. 1--Introduction to the Course  
 Sept. 3--The Invention of Agriculture

Reading: Hollister, Introduction, and Chapter 1

[NO discussion sections]

#### Week II (Sept. 8-10)

Sept. 8--The "Hydraulic" Civilizations of the Ancient Near East  
 Sept. 10--The Origins of the Greek City-State (*Polis*)

Reading: Hollister, Chapters 2, 3 and 4  
 "The Ideology of Ancient Bureaucratic Despotisms" (course packet)  
 "The Daily Life of a Pharaoh" (course packet)

#### Week III (Sept. 15-17)

Sept. 15--Origins of the *Polis*, II  
 Sept. 17--The Origins of Athenian Democracy

Readings: Hollister, Chapter 6  
 "The Origins and Structure of Athenian Democracy" (course packet)

#### Week IV (Sept. 22-24)

Sept. 22--The Structure of Athenian Democracy  
 [short paper on *Antigone* is assigned]  
 Sept. 24--Drama at Athens; Sophocles; the Myth of the Family of Oedipus

Reading: Hollister, Chapters 7-8  
 Introduction to *Antigone* (read this carefully)

Week VI (Sept 29-Oct. 1)

Sept. 29— Sophocles, *Antigone*: The Issues  
 Oct. 1-- The Issues in *Antigone* II

Reading: Sophocles, *Antigone*  
 Hollister, Chapter 9

Week VII (Oct.6-8)

Oct. 6-- Athens and Sparta  
 [short paper on *Antigone* is DUE]  
 Oct. 8--The Coming of the Great Peloponnesian War

Reading: Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, Introduction, and  
 selections from Book 1

Week VIII (Oct. 13- 15)

Oct. 13-- The Coming of the Great Peloponnesian War, II  
 Oct. 15— The World of Thucydides

Reading: Thucydides, selections from Book 3 and Book 5

Week IX (Oct. 20-22)

Oct. 20-- MID-TERM EXAMINATION  
 Oct. 22--Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age

Reading: Hollister, Chapter 10

Week X (Oct. 27- 29)

Oct. 27--The Hellenistic Age, II  
 Oct. 29--The Political Institutions of the Roman Republic

Reading: Polybius, *The Histories*, Book VI (course packet), begin

Week XI (Nov. 3-5)

Nov. 3--The Political Institutions of the Roman Republic, II  
 Nov. 5—The Political Culture of the Roman Senatorial Aristocracy

Reading: Polybius, *The Histories*, Book VI (finish)

Week XII ( Nov. 10-12)

Nov. 10— The Rise of Rome to World Power  
 Nov. 12-- The Rise of Rome to World Power, II

Reading: Hollister, Chapter 11  
 Polybius, *The Histories*, Book III (course packet)  
 "Romans as Virtuous Defenders of Civilization" (course packet)

Week XIII (Nov. 17-19)

Nov. 17—The Decline of the Republican Consensus  
 Nov. 19—The Decline of the Republican Consensus, II

Readings: Plutarch: *Life of Marcus Porcius Cato the Elder*  
 Plutarch: *Life of Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus*

Week XIV (Nov. 24-26)

Nov. 24—Caesar and Augustus  
 Nov. 26—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Readings: Hollister, Chapter 12

Week XIV (Dec. 1-3)

Dec. 1— The "Roman Peace," 30 B.C.-250 A.D  
 Dec. 3--. Ancient Judaism, and the Jews under Roman Rule

Reading: "The Hard Work of Being Emperor" (course packet)  
 P. Aelius Aristides, "In Praise of Rome" (course packet)

Week XV (Dec. 8-10)

Dec. 8--Jesus of Nazareth as a Historical Figure  
 Dec. 10--General Review

Reading: : Hollister, Chapter 13  
*The Gospel of Matthew*

Required books:

Warren Hollister, *Roots of the Western Tradition*  
 Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*  
 Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*  
 Plutarch, *Makers of Rome*

Course Packet from Beljean