

# CLAS 1000 GREEK CIVILIZATION

## FALL 2009

Instructor: Dr. Elena Bianchelli

Office: Park 218

Office hours: M W, 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

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This course will provide an overview of ancient Greek civilization, beginning with the arrival of the first Greek people (the Mycenaeans) on the Greek mainland c. 2000 BC, and ending with the rise to power of the Romans in the Mediterranean world. Primary emphasis will be on the ideas of the Greeks as illustrated by their literature, but we will also consider the artistic achievements of these people and the historical framework within which they developed new forms of government, including “tyranny” and “democracy”. The course will be divided into three sections of five weeks each, with a test at the end of each of the first two sections and a three hour final. In section 1 we will study the period known as the Bronze Age of Greek civilization, or Mycenaean era, extending from about 2000 to about 1100 BC, and we will read the *Iliad* of Homer. In section 2 we will concentrate on philosophic and historical developments in the Archaic and Classical periods, reading in particular Hesiod's account of the origin of the world and the gods (the *Theogony*), and we will begin our study of Greek tragedy with Aeschylus. In section 3 we will move on to the tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides, and at the same time consider the world of fifth-century BC Athens in which these writers lived and thought. Finally we will investigate the new attitudes of morality represented by Socrates in several of Plato's dialogues, including the Apology. Tests will include both objective questions (identification of names, dates, etc.) and essay questions to assess understanding of the important issues in the course.

**TEXTS:** There are five texts for the course:

1. Pomeroy, Burstein, Donlan, and Roberts: *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*
2. Homer: *The Iliad of Homer* (M. Hammond, translator)
3. Hesiod: *Theogony* and *Works & Days* (M. L. West, Translator)
4. *Greek Drama* (Moses Hadas, Translator)
5. Plato: *The Last Days of Socrates* (H. Tredennick, Translator)

**PAPER:** Each student will write a three/five page research paper on a topic approved by the instructor.

**GRADING:** Grading will be approximately as follows: 25% for each test, 5% for class participation, 15% for the paper, and 30% for the final.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is expected for all classes, since all quizzes and tests will pay *close* attention to what we talk about in class. Your grade will be lowered by a letter grade if you miss more than four classes.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” [Http://uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhom.htm](http://uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhom.htm) Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

## Schedule of Classes

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary

All readings must be completed BEFORE they are discussed in class

- Week 1** Introduction  
Aug. 18-20 The Greek World: Sources, Historical Periods, Geography, Main Resources, Economy.  
Pomeroy, pp. 3-19  
The *Iliad*: Mythological background and main characters. Read Introduction.
- Week 2** Homer and Oral Poetry; Homeric Society  
Aug 25-27 Pomeroy, pp. 47-57  
*Iliad*, Book 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
Video: *The Singer of Tales*
- Week 3** Crete, The Minoans, and Sir Arthur Evans. The Mycenaeans  
Sep 1-3 Pomeroy, 19-39  
*Iliad*, Books 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
Video: *Mycenae and Crete*
- Week 4** Troy and Heinrich Schlieman, The Dark Age  
Sep 8-10 Pomeroy, pp. 41-47, 57-59  
*Iliad*, Books 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.  
Video: *In Search of Troy*
- Week 5** *The Odyssey*  
Sep 15-17 *Iliad*, Books 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
- Week 6**  
Sep 22 **TEST 1**  
Sep 24 The End of the Dark Age. Geometric Art  
Pomeroy, pp. 59-68.
- Week 7** Archaic Greece. Hesiod. Greek Mythology: The Early Gods.  
Sep 29-Oct 1 Pomeroy, pp. 70-82.  
Hesiod: *Theogony*.

- Week 8** The Hoplite Army, Tyrants, Arts and Sciences. Lyric Poetry. *Kouroi*.  
 Oct 6-10 Temples  
 Pomeroy: pp. 82-95  
 Hesiod, *Works and Days*.  
 Lyric Poetry (Readings from course packet)
- Week 9** Philosophy. Panhellenic Institutions. Relations among States.  
 Oct 13-15 Athens. Solon. Peisistratos. The Birth of Tragedy.  
 Aeschylus  
 and the *Oresteia*.  
 Pomeroy, pp. 95-100; 124-136; 206-209
- Week 10** Aeschylus: *Agamemnon*, Summary of *Choephoroe*; *Eumenides*  
 Oct 20 Pomeroy, pp.207-209  
 Oct 22 **TEST 2**  
 Oct 22 Thu **Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline**
- Week 11**  
 Oct 27-29 Sparta. The Persian Wars and the Delian League. Herodotus.  
 The Athenian Empire, Pericles, and the Athenian Democracy.  
 Pomeroy, pp. 102-123; 136-167; 202-204.
- Week 12** Literature and Art, Pindar. Oikos and Polis. Economy. The Acropolis of  
 Nov 3-5 Athens.  
 Pomeroy, pp. 167-202.  
 Video: *Greek Temples*  
**PAPER DUE**
- Week 13** The Peloponnesian War. Intellectual Life: Philosophy, History, Sophocles.  
 Nov 10-12 Pomeroy, pp. 200-211.  
 Sophocles, *Antigone*, *Oedipus Rex*, Summary of *Oedipus at Colonus*
- Week 14** Education and the Sophists. The Peloponnesian War. Euripides  
 Nov 17-19 Pomeroy, pp. 212-254  
 Euripides. *Medea*. *Hippolytus*
- Week 15** Thanksgiving Holiday  
 Nov 23-28
- Week 16** Greek Comedy. Aristophanes . Oligarchy at Athens. Trial of Socrates  
 Dec 1-3 Pomeroy, pp. 254-269  
 Euripides: *Trojan Women*.  
 Aristophanes, *The Frogs*  
 Plato, *The Apology*
- Dec 15 Tue **FINAL EXAM** (12:00-3:00)