

C O U R S E O U T L I N E

Fall/Winter 2009-10 CLAS-2091-001 (HIST-2104-001) Ancient Greek History

Professor Mark Golden

TuTh 13:00-14:15; 1L07

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Office Hours: M / W 11:00-12:00

We will study (mainly) the political history of Greece from about 800 BCE to 300 BCE. We will pay special attention to the city-states of Athens and Sparta.

Required texts: S. Pomeroy *et al.*, *Ancient Greece. A Political, Social and Cultural History* (Oxford)
Herodotus, *The Histories* (edited by W. Blanco and J.T. Roberts, Norton)
Aristotle, *The Athenian Constitution* (edited by P.J. Rhodes, Penguin)
Plutarch on Sparta (edited by R.J.A. Talbert, Penguin)

Marking Scheme:

1 st assignment	5 percent	due Thursday, 17 September
2nd assignment	10 percent	due Thursday, 29 October
Xmas term test	20 percent	Tuesday, 8 December (1:30 p.m.)
3rd assignment	15 percent	due Thursday, 11 February, 2010
4th assignment	25 percent	due Thursday, 1 April, 2010
final exam	25 percent	Tuesday, 20 April, 2010 (9 a.m.)

Schedule: (first term)

Sept. 10	Introduction	Ancient Greece, Introduction
15, 17	Sources of evidence/ Early Greece and the Bronze Age/The Dark Ages	<i>Ancient Greece</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
22, 24	Colonization	<i>Ancient Greece</i> , Chapter 3
29, Oct. 1	Tyranny	
Oct. 6, 8	Sparta	<i>Ancient Greece</i> , Chapter 4
13, 15	Athens: Solon	<i>Ancient Greece</i> , Chapter 5
20, 22	Athens: Peisistratus	
27, 29	Athens: Cleisthenes	
Nov. 3, 5	The Persian Wars / Athenian Democracy	
10, 12	The Persian Wars (1)	
17, 19	The Persian Wars (2)	<i>Ancient Greece</i> , Chapter 6
Nov. 24, 26	Athenian Democracy (1)	
Dec. 1	Athenian Democracy (2) / X-mas Exam Study Guide	

You should have read all four textbooks by the end of this course. I have outlined a timetable for reading *Ancient Greece* on the Schedule. Herodotus is our most important narrative source for archaic Greek history and the Persian Wars, Aristotle for the development and operation of Athenian democracy. *Plutarch on Sparta* will be most helpful for Sparta. All may be of use in carrying out assignments. There are date charts in *Ancient Greece* (pp. xvii-xxiv), Herodotus (pp. xv-xvii) and Aristotle (p. 169), maps in *Ancient Greece* (listed on p. xii), Aristotle (pp. 166-168) and *Plutarch on Sparta* (pp. 215-218). *Ancient Greece* also includes a glossary of terms (pp. 511-524).

Work submitted for evaluation must be typed. Students will not be asked to show identification during exams.
The last day to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is **January 22, 2010**.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT - NARRATIVE

(Due Thursday, 17 September; Value - 5% of final mark)

Choose any day this week. Provide a narrative of what you did on that day, including your motive(s) for any unusual activity. Do not write more than 400 words.

One of the focuses of this course is on historiography – how historians tell the story. This exercise is meant to alert you to issues (especially of selection and emphasis) involved in shaping factual material into history.

SECOND ASSIGNMENT - PRIMARY SOURCES

(Due Thursday, 29 October; Value - 10% of final mark; Maximum Length - 1,500 words)

1. Choose and define any subject discussed in your texts of Herodotus (pp. 3-237), of *The Athenian Constitution* (pp. 41-114), or of Plutarch or Xenophon on Sparta (*Plutarch on Sparta*, pp. 3-80, 194-211).
2. Find another ancient primary source which discusses the same subject. You may use one of the ancient primary sources in pp. 241-270 of your edition of Herodotus (except for Bacchylides 3, pp. 245-247) or any other. Note that Herodotus and *The Athenian Constitution* often discuss the same Athenian events and institutions, and Xenophon and Plutarch the same Spartan subjects. If you use a source not found in your textbooks, please include a copy of this second passage along with your completed assignment.
3. Clearly and concisely identify one significant contradiction between these two primary sources in respect to the subject they both discuss. It will be easiest to deal with an explicit contradiction -- that is, alternatives which are not reconcilable. But you may choose to deal with a subject on which one primary source omits crucial information. Please consult with me if you are not planning to discuss an explicit contradiction.
4. In about 500 words, argue that the first account is the more reliable.
5. In about 500 words, argue that the other primary source is the more reliable.
6. In about 500 words, indicate the difference it makes to our understanding of Greek history which version we consider more reliable. For example: What other subjects discussed by one or both of these primary sources does our judgement on their reliability affect? What other events or institutions do we understand differently if we follow one of these versions rather than the other?

I have put two copies of a successful assignment on reserve in the library as a model. Please do not work on the same subject.

Late assignments may be penalized at the rate of 1 mark per day, overlong assignments, 1 mark.

I will be happy to look at early drafts of your assignments at any time.