

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1988-1989

History 111
Office: 4117 Humanities

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The Ancient Near East and Greece

Course Description:

This course will survey a wide range of ancient cultures over a great period of time. The civilizations of primary focus for this course are those that developed in the area of Mesopotamia, the region of Egypt, the areas surrounding the Aegean Sea, and, to some extent, Asia Minor and Palestine. Due to the great scope of this course, only an overview of each civilization is possible. However, special attention will be paid to certain significant aspects in the development of human society. The main theme of this course is the position of the individual in relation to his society as a whole. As a result, this aspect will be considered to some extent for each of the civilizations you will study.

Lectures:

There will be three lectures/week, plus one discussion section.

Students who take the course for 3-credits:

Are required to take the 6 week, 12 week and final exam.

Students who take the course for 4-credits:

Are required to take the 6 week, 12 week and final exam. In addition, these students must write a term paper (suggested maximum length: 8 to 10 pages). The paper must be based on an analysis of specific ancient material read in this course.

Honors students:

Will participate in a discussion with the instructor. You will choose your own paper topics or projects.

Grading: 3-credits: approximately 25% for the 6 and 12 week exams; 10% for participation in discussion sections; 40% for the final.

4-credits: approximately 20% for the 6 and 12 week exams and the paper; 10% for participation in discussion sections; 30% for the final.

Books to be purchased:

Carl Roebuck, The World of Ancient Times
James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, vol. I
John A. Wilson, The Culture of Ancient Egypt
Herodotus, The Persian Wars. Translated by George Rawlinson
W.F. Albright, Biblical Period From Abraham To Ezra
Hesiod and Theognis, translated by D. Wender
Sophocles, The Three Theban Plays. Translated by R. Fagles
R. Sealey, History of the Greek States, 700-338 B.C.
F.W. Walbank, The Hellenistic World
Brian M. Fagan, People of the Earth (Recommended)
(Revised Standard Bible)

Books on Reserve:

Please note that the Reserve Collection in H.C. White (Room 1191) has on reserve all of the forementioned books. The only exception to this is Fagan's, People of the Earth which has been ordered. All these books have been placed on three-hour reserve.

Lectures

Readings

- I. The Development of
Agriculture & Urbanism
(ca. 10,000-3500 B.C.)
- II. The Bronze Age Civilizations
of the Ancient Near East &
Greece (ca. 3500-1200 B.C.)
- (1) Introduction: A Response
to the Environment
- (2) Mesopotamia: From Sumer
to Babylonia and
Creation Myths
- (3) Egypt: From the Old &
Middle Kingdoms to the
fall of the New Kingdom
- (3) Origins of the Hebrews
- (4) Minoan & Mycenaean
Civilization
- III. The Early Iron Age in the
Near East (ca. 1200-500 B.C.)
- (1) The Hebrews: From Kingdom
to Exile. Hebraic World
View: Covenant & Prophecy
- (2) Assyria and Persia
- Roebuck, 3-17.
[Recommended: Fagan,
Chapts. 6, 9-10 & 14.]
- Roebuck, 19-46.
Pritchard, 28-76;
85-86; 133-167.
- Roebuck, 47-100
Wilson, 43-103, 125-
153, and 166-235.
Pritchard, 1-5, 173-
182, and 184-186.
- Albright, 1-9.
- Roebuck, 101-119.
[Recommended: Fagan,
Chapt. 18.]
- Roebuck, 125-135.
Albright, 10-96.
The Bible: I Samuel,
1-24, 31; II Samuel,
1-20; I Kings, 1-12;
II Kings, 18-25;
Genesis, 1-25.
- Roebuck, 141-153;
157-170.
Pritchard, 188-208.
Herodotus I, 95-216.

Lectures

- I. The Homeric World:
The Greek "Dark Age"
during the Iron Age
(ca. 1200-800 B.C.)
- II. The Archaic Age
(ca. 800-500 B.C.)
- (1) The world according
to Hesiod
- (2) Sparta
- (3) Athens
- (4) The Individual
in the Archaic Age
- III. The Classical Age
(ca. 500-336 B.C.)
- (1) The Persian Wars
(500-480 B.C.)
- (2) The Athenian Empire
(ca. 480-430)
- (3) The Classical Moment

Readings

- Roebuck, 174-190.
Herodotus I, 56-58.
- Roebuck, 191-197.
Herodotus I, 23-24;
III, 39-60; V, 67-
68; V, 92; and VI,
126-131.
Sealey, 10-65.
- Hesiod and Theognis,
"Theogony", 11-57.
- Roebuck, 197-203.
Herodotus I, 65-68;
I, 82; V, 39-54;
VI, 48-84; and
VII, 219-232.
Sealey, 66-88.
- Roebuck, 203-216.
Herodotus I, 59-64;
V, 55-66; V, 69-91.
Sealey, 89-168.
- Roebuck, 217-235.
- Roebuck, 236-252.
Herodotus V, 96-
105; VI, 94-136;
VII, 201-VIII 96.
[Recommended:
Sealey, 169-230.]
- Roebuck, 253-269.
Herodotus IX, 108-
122.
[Recommended:
Sealey, 232-323.]
- Roebuck, 270-275.
Sophocles: The
Three Theban Plays,
33-128.

Lectures

- (4) The Peloponnesian War
(431-404 B.C.)

Readings

Roebuck, 276-294.
Sealey, 297-385.

12 Week Exam

- I. The Decline of Classical
Civilization and the Rise
of Macedonia

Roebuck, 316-323.
[Recommended:
Sealey, 386-495.]

- II. The Hellenistic Age
(ca. 336-200 B.C.)

- (1) Alexander the Great and
his conquests
- (2) The economic, social &
political organization
of Hellenistic Civilization
- (3) Religious & Intellectual
life of Hellenistic
Civilization

Roebuck, 349-367.
Walbank, 29-78.

Roebuck, 368-414.
Walbank, 141-175;
and 198-208.
[Recommended:
Walbank, 79-140.]

Walbank, 176-197;
and 209-226.