

HIST303: A HISTORY OF GREEK CIVILIZATION

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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.15-9.15am

Lectures: Tuesday, Thursday 9.30-10.45am; HUM1101

Sections: Tuesday 2.25pm, Tuesday 3.30pm, Wednesday 12.05pm, Wednesday 1.20pm

Course description

This course examines Greek political, cultural and social history from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period with a focus on archaic and classical Greece. A key theme is that of unity and division. We will examine the creation and development of political communities, the different ways in which these were run, how they came into conflict with one another and amongst themselves, and the social and cultural context from which they changed the Mediterranean world.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- place key historical events and social/political practice of the period in their appropriate chronological context
- discuss problems relating to the reconstruction of historical events and Greek social/political practice with reference to relevant source material
- discuss with appropriate methodological awareness conflicting views expressed in modern scholarship

Course textbooks

Pomeroy, Sarah, S.M. Burstein, Walter Donlan, and J.T. Roberts. 2014. *A Brief History of Ancient Greece. Politics, Society and Culture*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nagle, D. Brendan, and Stanley Mayer Burstein. 2014. *Readings in Greek History: Sources and Interpretations*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

HIST303: Sourcebook supplement

Note that there is a very useful companion website to Pomeroy et al:
<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195372359/>

Class topics

Date	Topic	Textbook readings
Tues 21 Jan Thurs 23 Jan	Week 1: Introduction, key concepts, sources and evidence How do we know what we know?	Pomeroy 2014, introduction
From the Bronze Age to the Archaic period		
Tues 28 Jan Thurs 30 Jan	Week 2: The Prehistoric Aegean: From the Neolithic to the Bronze Age Neolithic, Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 1
Tues 4 Feb Thurs 6 Feb	Week 3: What's so "dark" about the "Dark Age"? Social organization in the Early Iron Age, continuity & change, the Homeric question, the birth of the <i>polis</i>	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 2
Tues 11 Feb Thurs 13 Feb	Week 4: The polis and the expanding Greek world "Colonization"; fighters, farmers and citizenship; aristocracy	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 3
Tues 18 Feb Thurs 20 Feb	Week 5: Political revolution: Lawcodes, lawgivers and tyrants The <i>polis</i> and the rule of law, the development – and usurpation – of political consensus	Pomeroy 2014, pp. 81-3, 121-8
Tues 25 Feb	Week 6: Tyranny and political change in Athens Peisistratus and the tyranny, Kleisthenes and the transition to democracy	Pomeroy 2014, pp. 128-36
Thurs 27 Feb	Midterm	
From Archaic to Classical Greece		
Tues 4 March Thurs 6 March	Week 7: The big powers Sparta, Persia, the Persian Wars	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 4, and pp. 136-51
Tues 11 March Thurs 13 March	Week 8: The growth of Athenian power and the outbreak of war The Athenian Empire, the Peloponnesian War	Pomeroy 2014, pp. 152-60, 218-34
Spring break		
Tues 25 March	Week 9: The (Athenian) world falls apart	Pomeroy 2014, pp.

Thurs 27 March	The end of the Peloponnesian War and the fallout, stasis in Greek cities, the culture of Athens	163-81, ch. 7, and 234-45
Tues 1 April Thurs 3 April	Week 10: Athenian democracy Athenian democracy in the fifth and fourth centuries	Pomeroy 2014, pp. 160-3, 260-6
Tues 8 April Thurs 10 April	Week 11: The fourth-century political landscape The Corinthian War, the King's Peace, the Second Athenian League, the fall of Sparta	Pomeroy 2014, pp. 266-81
Macedonian hegemony		
Tues 15 April Thurs 17 April	Week 12: Macedonia and Philip II Macedonian expansion, the "end of Greek freedom", the death of Philip, Philip's son Alexander	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 10
Tues 22 April Thurs 24 April	Week 13: No class (work on essays)	
From Classical to Hellenistic		
Tues 29 April Thurs 1 May	Week 14: Alexander the Great Conquest, divinity, impact on the world	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 11
Thurs 6 May Thurs 8 May	Week 15: The Hellenistic World The Successors, the break-up of Alexander's empire, political and cultural change	Pomeroy 2014, ch. 12, Epilogue

Discussion sections

In order to expand, reinforce and develop material from lectures, discussion sections provide the chance for **you** to analyze ancient source material, gain familiarity with modern scholarship and debate relevant questions and issues. These sessions are compulsory: you need to attend and participate in the discussion.

If you have more than one unexcused absence from these sessions, you will be docked 10% of the grade for the course.

Assessment

The assessments test both knowledge and analysis of material from the lectures and discussion sections. The more reading you do, the better basis you will have for understanding the material.

There are **FOUR** parts:

1. Discussion section participation (10%)

Your grade is judged by both attendance and participation. If you have more than one unexcused absence, you will automatically lose all 10%.

2. Midterm quiz (20%): **Thursday 27 February**

This will include material covering weeks 1-6.

3. Essay (40%)

Essay topics will be released in week 12 and are due in on the final day of class (**Thursday 8 May 2014**). Further details to follow.

4. Final quiz (30%): **14 May 2014, 2.45-4.45pm**

This will include material covering the whole course.

Assessment Policy

In order to maintain fairness for all students there will be **no deadline extensions**. If you miss the deadlines, without providing written documentation of illness or other extenuating circumstances, you will lose marks. If you submit more than 24 hours after the deadline your work will not be read.