

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
K. Sacks Semester II, 1990-91

History 572: RISE OF ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY

This course deals with the development of the Athenian democratic state in the 6th and 5th Centuries, B.C. It may also include a detailed study of the Persian Wars which (paradoxically) contributed so much both to the development of Athenian democracy and to Athenian imperialism.

The seminar will hold one 2-hr. meeting weekly. Each week, two students will lead the discussion (NOT give a report), but all students will be expected to contribute mightily. Emphasis in the course will be on weekly participation by all students. There will be a writing requirement (as yet undetermined), but most of your grade will be based on how you've kept up with the readings (about 100 pages/week) and participated weekly.

An added component to this course is participation in the Perseus Project. In conjunction with the Apple Computer Corp., Annenberg Foundation, and Harvard University, all of 5th Century Greek history is being put onto a data base. That data base includes a modern history of the period, maps, extraordinary visuals, all the necessary ancient texts, and other evidence (coins, pottery, and the like). All of this material is interactively related, so it can be accessed and stored at the whim of the user. My seminar will have access to the current (preliminary) version of this project, and students are strongly encouraged to use the computer for their written reports, and even for class presentations. Computer expertise is not a requirement of the course, nor will Appleless students suffer. But being comfortable with a Macintosh (and, even more preferably, with HyperText) could open up exciting possibilities.

The class is limited to 13 students (I taunt the Fates), and I give strong preference to students who have had other courses of mine. If interested, see me during office hours for the necessary interview.

OFFICE Hours:
2-3 Tuesdays
(or any anytime)