

# GREEK HISTORIOGRAPHY FROM ANTIQUITY THROUGH BYZANTIUM

SPRING 2011 TUESDAYS 1:20-3:20

Team-taught by Leonora Neville and Sarah Ferrario

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:50-11 am, or by appointment

## INTRODUCTION TO GREEK HISTORICAL WRITING

This seminar will examine themes and key concepts in Greek historical writing from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE.

The traditional departmentalization of the Western university has imposed a stark division between classical Greek history writing and medieval (Byzantine) Greek histories that the authors themselves would never have recognized. Rather, the writers of histories in Greek viewed themselves as participating in an unbroken intellectual and cultural tradition, and exploited that presumed continuity to add layers of meaning to their texts. To gain a more complete appreciation of the full trajectory of historical writing in Greek, we will cross the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines and trace lines of inheritance across time and changing political and social circumstances.

This seminar will be held concurrently by Dr. Ferrario at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and by Dr. Neville at UW Madison. Videoconferencing technology will allow opening presentations to be viewed by both classes. Subsequent discussions will be separate. Dr. Ferrario will provide guidance to the classical authors and Dr. Neville to the Byzantine authors.

Class meetings will concentrate upon the discussion of primary-source readings *completed in English* and upon relevant secondary literature.

### Assignments:

All students will choose a topic or strand of thought to trace throughout the term. Topics should be loosely defined so that you can allow different texts to speak for themselves. Some ideas are below:

- Religion and the divine  
God/s and goddesses, divination, belief systems, ritual, causality
- Fortuna, divine Providence and free will  
divine hand in history & destiny, the rise and fall of states and empires, cyclical and teleological visions of history, self-determination
- Tyranny  
Right/wrong government, dissent, encoding, subversion

- **Heroism**  
Homeric and tragic heroism, Roman bravery paradigms, models of good leadership, the problem of self-sacrifice
- **Memory**  
How does the past speak to the present? Why is history important to record? How does living memory interact with textual history? How ought memory of the past guide the present?
- **Identity/Personhood, Individual/Community**  
Ethnic, cultural, religious identities, communal identity, uniformity, individualism
- **Community**  
Constitution, King, Emperor, City, Nation, Family, Civilization/barbarism
- **Gender**  
Ideals of masculinity and femininity, construction and functions of characters (don't expect girls before Plutarch)
- **Persuasion & 'truth'**  
Speeches, textual manipulation, modes of expression, intertextuality, dissent and encoding
- **Prefaces and purposes**  
Why does one write history? Why do our authors *say* that they write history? What do they espouse as the essential elements of history?

#### **Everyone:**

Each week write 1-3 pages of notes reflecting on how the author of the week interacts with your topic. These notes can take the form of citations to passages and questions for further exploration. There are 14 weeks of primary source reading. You must turn in **12** notes assignments. 7% each (72%)

#### **Option B --Non-Greek Language option**

Research Paper Prospectus: Write a prospectus for a research project on your topic of inquiry, laying out your plan of approach, the texts you would use and the questions you would put to them. 6-15 pages. Due May 10<sup>th</sup>. **You do NOT need to write the research paper.** 14%

Presentation & Short Paper: One in-class presentation on an aspect of the reception of a given author in a later cultural context. Submit a 6-8 page written version. %14

#### **Option A –Greek Language Research Option**

Research Paper: Write a 20-30 page paper on some aspect of your topic of inquiry. Due May 10<sup>th</sup>, 28%

Many ancient texts are available online at:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>

Many Roman texts are available online at: <http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/home.html>

Byzantine Texts will be available through the course website or in the Greek and Latin Reading Room.

Date	Author	Primary Text	Secondary scholarship
11-Jan	CUA Only	Homer to Hecataeus	
18-Jan	Herodotus	Herodotus 1.1-92, 3.80-82, 6.94-120, 7.1-40, 7.100-105, 7.138-143, 7.201-233, 8.40-62, 8.78-100	Boedeker, Deborah, "Epic Heritage and Mythical Patterns in Herodotus," in Egbert J. Bakker, Irene J. F. de Jong, and Hans van Wees, eds., <i>Brill's Companion to Herodotus</i> (Leiden, 2002), 97-116. Richard Lattimore "The Wise Adviser in Herodotus" <i>Classical Philology</i> 34 (1939): 24-35
25-Jan	Thucydides	Thucydides 1.1-23, 1.67-117, 1.135-138, 1.140-146, 2.34-54, 2.65, 5.84-114, 6.8-18, 6.26, 6.30-32, 6.96-97, 7.10-15, 7.56, 7.60, 7.70-72, 7.75, 7.84-87	
1-Feb	Xenophon	Xenophon, Hellenica 1-2.23, 4 ; Anabasis 3; Agesilaus	
8-Feb	Polybius	Polybius 1-7	
	Diodorus Siculus	Diodorus 1.1-29, 4.1-7, 12.22-14.18, 16.66-20.113, 31.18-45	
	Arrian	<a href="http://websfor.org/alexander/arrian/intro.asp">http://websfor.org/alexander/arrian/intro.asp</a>	
15-Feb	Dionysius of Halicarnassus	Dionysius, Roman Antiquities 1-4	
22-Feb	Plutarch	Plutarch, <i>Dion, Brutus, Timoleon, Amelius Paulus, Demetrius, Antony, Alcibiades, Coriolanus</i>	
1-Mar	Eusebios	History of the Church, trans. G. A. Williamson, introduction Andrew Louth, (Penguin 1990)	Frances Young From Nicaea to Chalcedon 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, 2010), 1-39
8-Mar	Anthony Kaldellis' Visit		Kaldellis "The corpus of Byzantine historiography: an interpretive essay." In <i>The Byzantine World</i> , edited by Paul Stephenson, 211-22. London, 2010; "Historicism in Byzantine Thought and Literature." <i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i> 61, (2007): 1-24
15-Mar	UW Spring Break		

22-Mar	Procopios	Wars, books V-VI; <a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20298">http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20298</a>	Michael Maas "Roman Questions, Byzantine Answers: Contour of the Age of Justinian" in <i>The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian</i> 3-27; Warren Treadgold <i>The Early Byzantine Historians, 177-226</i>
29-Mar	John Malalas		Warren Treadgold, <i>The Early Byzantine Historians, 235-256</i> ; Jeffreys, Elizabeth. "The Attitudes of Byzantine Chroniclers Towards Ancient History." <i>Byzantion</i> 49, (1979): 199-238.
	Theophanes	Theophanes, Cyril A. Mango, Roger Scott, and Geoffrey Greatrex. <i>The chronicle of Theophanes Confessor : Byzantine and Near Eastern history, AD 284-813</i> . Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997	
	Genesios	Genesios: On the Reigns of the Emperors, Translated by Anthony Kaldellis. Sydney: Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, 1998	Markopoulos, Athanasios. "Genesios: A Study." In <i>Realia Byzantina</i> , edited by Sofia Kotzabassi and Giannis Mavromatis, 137-50. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009.
5-Apr	Leo the Deacon	<i>The history of Leo the Deacon: Byzantine military expansion in the tenth century</i> . Translated by Alice-Mary Talbot and Denis Sullivan. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 2005	Markopoulos, Athanasios. "Byzantine history writing at the end of the first millennium." In <i>Byzantium in the Year 1000</i> , edited by Paul Magdalino, 183-97 Leiden: Brill, 2003.
	John Skylitzes	John Skylitzes : a synopsis of Byzantine history, 811-1057 / trans. John Wortley	Holmes, Catherine. "The rhetorical structures of Skylitzes; Synopsis Historion." In <i>Rhetoric in Byzantium</i> , edited by Elizabeth Jeffreys, 187-200. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003

12-Apr	Michael Attaleiates	Grégoire, Henri. "Translation of Attaliates." <i>Byzantion</i> 28, (1958): 325-62	Kaldellis, Anthony. "A Byzantine Argument for the Equivalence of All Religions: Michael Attaleiates on Ancient and Modern Romans." <i>International Journal of the Classical Tradition</i> 14, no. 1/2 (2008): 1-22.
	Michael Psellos	Michael Psellus <i>Fourteen Byzantine rulers; the Chronographia</i> . Translated by E. R. A. Sewter, Penguin Books, 1966	
19-Apr	Nikephoros Bryennios	draft translation provided	
	Anna Komnene	<i>Alexiad</i> , Anna Komnene translated by Sewter, revised by Peter Frankopan, (Penguin 2009)	Dyke, Anthony. "Iliad and Alexiad: Anna Comnena's Homeric Reminiscences." <i>Greek Roman and Byzantine Studies</i> 27, (1986): 113-2
26-Apr	Niketas Choniates	Harry Magoulas <i>O City of Byzantium</i> , Wayne State UP, 1984	Alicia Simpson and Stephanos Efthymiadis eds. <i>Niketas Choniates : a historian and a writer</i> . Geneva: La Pomme d'Or, 2009.
3-May	George Akropolites	Macrides, Ruth. <i>George Akropolites : the history</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007	