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21H.301 The Ancient World: Greece  
Fall 2004

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MIT 21.H301 (CI-HASS-D): ANCIENT WORLD - GREECE (Fall 2006)  
COURSE SYLLABUS (revised 8-29-06)

Prof. Steven E. Ostrow  
History Faculty

Writing Tutor: Ms. Kathleen Delaney

Lectures: Tues., Thurs. 12:00

Recitations: Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

Required Textbooks (new at MIT Bookstore; & try "used": MIT Bookstore, Abebooks.com, Amazon)  
textbook: Pomeroy, Burstein, Donlan, Roberts, Ancient Greece (1999)  
Aristophanes, Three Comedies: Birds, Clouds, Wasps (transl.  
W. Arrowsmith & D. Parker)  
Aristotle, Athenian Constitution (transl. P. Rhodes)  
Herodotus, Histories (transl. A. De Sélincourt)  
Homer, The Iliad (transl. R. Fagles)  
Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates (transl. G. Grube)  
Plutarch, Greek Lives (transl. R. Waterfield)  
Landmark Thucydides (= The Peloponnesian War, ed. R. Strassler)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance at **Lectures** (Tuesday & Thursday) & **Discussion** (Friday)

Exams: **Mid-term Exam:** (50 minutes long) Tuesday, Nov. 7 (**10%** of course grade)  
**Final exam:** (90 minutes) date to be determined (**15%** of course grade)  
Full description of the exams will be distributed in due course.

Papers: **Four writing assignments** required (as per CI-HASS-D- standards):  
3 7-page ESSAYS (double-spaced 8 ½ x 11 pp.) (each=**15%** of course grade);  
a REVISION of essay #1 or #2 (= **10%**).

Technical requirements and topics to be announced. All papers are due at the START of the lecture hour on the given due-date. Unexcused late papers will incur penalties: one partial grade step (as from A to A-, or from A- to B+) for each day late. (Excuses accepted only for serious & documented reasons of health or other genuine emergency – NOT merely "MIT work crunch.")

REVISIONS: In order to catch any early problems, as well as to allow time for thoughtful revision, you will be required to revise and resubmit one of the first two essays due. Students who receive a grade lower than "straight-B" (=85) on essay #1 will be required to revise that paper; all others may choose which of their first two essays they prefer to revise. As part of the revision process, all students must attend a 30-minute individual tutorial with Ms. Kathleen Delaney (the writing tutor for this course), at which you will have the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving the quality of your writing.

Due Dates: Paper #1 (on Homer's Iliad): September 26 (Tues.)

Paper #2 (Herodotus): October 24 (Tues.)  
 Revised #1 or #2: November 21 (Tues.)  
 Paper #3 (Thucydides): December 7 (Thurs.)

**(No written work will be accepted after the date of the final exam.)**

Discussions: Active, **informed participation** in your weekly discussion section is required -- and warmly encouraged (based on reading and thinking about assigned texts, and on listening to the views of others both in lecture & in section meetings). (= **20%** of course grade).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Works of reference in the Humanities Library:

- S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth (eds.), *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1996).
- *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition:
  - Volume 3, part 3: Expansion of the Greek world, 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.
  - Volume 5: The fifth century B.C.
  - Volume 6: The fourth century B.C.
  - Volume 7, part 1: The Hellenistic world

### Recommended web-sites:

#### The Ancient City of Athens

[www.stoa.org/athens/](http://www.stoa.org/athens/)

Very useful site created by Kevin T. Glowacki of Indiana University mainly as a photographic archive, but including much useful commentary as well.

#### Athenian Agora Excavations

[www.agathe.gr](http://www.agathe.gr)

Web-site of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, who have been responsible for excavating the Agora for many decades now.

#### JSTOR

[www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

#### The Perseus Digital Library

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

A wealth of information relevant to our subject: Ancient texts and translations, extensive photo archives of an impressive range of sites, and plenty of secondary material. Get to know this site as soon as possible.

The Stoa Consortium

[www.stoa.org](http://www.stoa.org)

'A Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities', with links to many projects of interest.

(reading should be completed by date indicated; \*asterisks indicate material posted at the course website, or photocopied, to be handed out in class)

### September

7 Th: Introduction to History of the Greeks

12 T: The Aegean Sea Area in the Bronze Age -- the Minoans of Crete

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 1-18  
Homer, Iliad, Books 1-2 (pp. 77-127)

14 Th: The Mycenaeans of Mainland Bronze Age Greece

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 18-40  
Iliad, Books 6 (pp. 195-213), 9 (pp. 251-75)

15 F: Discussion #1: The Iliad and Early Greek Society

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 51-53  
Iliad, Books 14 (lines 185-429, on pp. 374-81), 16 (pp. 412-41)

19 T: The "Dark Ages"

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. II (pp. 41-80)  
Iliad, Books 18 (lines 430-719, on pp. 479-87), 19-20 (488-519)

21 Th: The World of Homer: Aristocratic Values

Reading: Iliad, Books 21-23 (pp. 520-587)

22 F: Discussion #2: The Iliad vs. Hesiod

Reading: Iliad, Book 24 (pp. 588-614)  
Ancient Greece, pp. 99-103  
\*Hesiod, Works and Days

26 T: FIRST PAPER DUE (on Homer)

Emergence from the "Dark Ages": Rise of the Polis, and "Tyranny" in Archaic Greece

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. III (pp. 82-129)

28 Th: The Early Development of Sparta

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. IV (pp. 131-57)

September29 F: Discussion #3: Archaic Spartan Society

Reading: Plutarch, Greek Lives: "Lycurgus" pp. 3-41  
 Herodotus, Book I.65-68 (= pp. 28-31); Book 6.51-60 (= 376-80)

October

3 T: The Rise of Athens -- Solon

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 159-69  
 Aristotle, chap.'s 1-13 (pp. 39-55)  
 Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Solon," pp. 42-77

5 Th: Athenian Tyranny &amp; Democracy: Pisistratus and Cleisthenes

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 169-78  
 Herodotus, Book 1.59-64 (pp. 24-28)  
 Aristotle, chap.'s 14-22 (pp. 55-67)

6 F: Discussion #4: How Was Herodotus "The Father of History"?

Reading: Herodotus 1.1-56 (= pp. 3-24), 1.69-92 (pp. 31-44),  
 2.35-36 (pp. 109-10), 2.129-133 (pp. 148-49),  
 5.55-98 (pp. 331-52), 6.61-86 (pp. 380-92),  
 6.125-131 (pp. 404-08), 7.1-19 (pp. 413-25),  
 8.123-25 (pp. 543-44), 9.71-76 (pp. 583-85)

10 T: VACATION (Columbus Day)

12 Th: The Persian Wars

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 178-99

13 F: Discussion #5: The Why and How of the Persian Wars

Reading: Herodotus Book 6.94-124 (pp. 394-404), 7.22-39 (pp. 425-31),  
 7.100-104 (pp. 447-50), 7.131-52 (pp. 458-68),  
 7.172-239 (pp. 476-500), 8.1-114 (pp. 501-41),  
 8.140-44 (pp. 550-53), 9.1-70 (pp. 554-83)

17 T: Aristocratic Society and Ideals

Reading: review Herodotus 1.29-33 (=pp. 13-16), 6.125-131 (pp. 404-08),  
 8.123-125 (pp. 543-44), 9.71-76 (pp. 583-85)

19 Th: Growth of an Athenian Empire

October

20 F: Discussion #6: Why an Athenian Empire?

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 201-15  
 Thucydides Book 1.1-23 (= pp. 1-16), 1.89-117 (pp. 49-65)  
 \*inscriptions regarding the Athenian Empire

24 T: SECOND PAPER DUE (on Herodotus)

Athenian Democracy against an Imperial Background

Reading: Ancient Greece (review pp. 190-92); pp. 215-44  
 Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Pericles," pp. 140-79

26 Th: Democratic Institutions and Leaders

Reading: review Ancient Greece, pp. 215-19

27 F: Discussion #7: The Democracy

Reading: Aristotle, chap.'s 23-28 (pp. 66-72), 42-69 (pp. 86-114)  
 Aristophanes, Wasps (pp. 7-117)

31 T: Inter-state Greek Politics: 478-446 B.C.

Reading: Ancient Greece, review pp. 212-15

November

2 Th: Inter-state Greek Politics: 446-432 B.C.

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 246-67

3 F: Discussion #8: Causes of the Peloponnesian War

Reading: Thucydides I.23-146 (pp. 16-85)

7 T: MID-TERM EXAM

9 Th: Peloponnesian War, I: The Archidamian War

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 287-303  
 Thucydides, Book II (pp. 89-156)

10 F: HOLIDAY (Veterans Day)

14 T: Peloponnesian War, II

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 303-11  
 Thucydides, Book III (pp. 159-219)  
 Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Alcibiades," pp. 218-59

16 Th: Athenian Democracy during the War, and its Temporary Collapse

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 311-28

November

17 F: Discussion #9: Thucydides: War Strategy, and The Sicilian Expedition

Reading: Thucydides, Books 5.84-7.87 (pp. 350-478)  
review Thucydides, Books II & III (pp. 89-219)

21 T: RE-WRITE OF ESSAY #1 OR #2 DUE

The Achievement of Greek Art and Architecture

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 274-85

23-24 Th, F: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving vacation)

28 T: Does The Democracy Deserve to Rule?

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 267-74  
Herodotus, Book 3.80-82 (pp. 207-09)

30 Th: "Classical" Greece of the Fourth Century B.C.: The Political Shape

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 330-43

December

1 F: Discussion # 10: Socrates on Trial

Reading: Ancient Greece, review pp. 323-26  
Plato's Apology (in Grube's Trial & Death of Socrates, pages 20-42)  
Aristophanes, Clouds (pp. 9-113)

5 T: Fourth Century Greece: The Economic and Social Dimension

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 343-68

7 Th: THIRD PAPER DUE (on Thucydides)

The Rise of Macedonia -- King Philip

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. X, pp. 371-93

8 F: Discussion #11: at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (to Greek [and Etruscan/Roman?]  
Collections) -- details to be announced (your MIT ID gains you free entry!)  
(on Huntington Ave.: By "T": Green Line, "E" train, "Museum" stop)

12 T: Alexander the Great

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. XI, pp. 395-425, and pp. 427-29  
Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Alexander," pp. 306-81