

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.301 The Ancient World: Greece
Fall 2004

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

MIT 21.H301 (CI-HASS-D): ANCIENT WORLD - GREECE (Fall 2008)
COURSE SYLLABUS

Prof. Steven E. Ostrow

Lectures: Tues., Thurs. 12:00

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

Required Textbooks (new at MIT bookstore; & try "used": Coop, Abebooks.com, Amazon)

textbook: Pomeroy, Burstein, Donlan, Roberts, Ancient Greece, 2nd ed. (2008)

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)

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (transl. R. Warner)

Course Requirements and Grading:

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

Exams: **Hour Exam**: (50 minutes long) Thurs., Oct. 9 (**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);

plus a REVISION of essay #1 or #2 (= **10%**).

Late Penalties:

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 at least one 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: October 2 (Thursday)
Paper #2: November 4 (Tuesday)
Revised #1 or #2: November 25 (Tuesday)

Paper #3: December 4 (Thursday)

(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*, 3rd edition (1996).
- *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 2nd edition:
 - Volume 3, part 3: Expansion of the Greek world, 8th to 6th 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/

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

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

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

The Perseus Digital Library

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

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

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READINGS

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

September

4 Th: Introduction to History of the Greeks

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 1-31
Homer, Iliad, Books 1-2 (pp. 77-127)

11 Th: The Mycenaeans of Mainland Bronze Age Greece

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. I (pp. 31-49)
Iliad, Books 6 (pp. 195-213), 9 (pp. 251-75), 14 (lines 185-429, on pp. 374-81)

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 64-67
Iliad 16 (pp. 412-41), 18 (lines 430-719, on pp. 479-87)

16 T: The "Dark Ages"; The World of Homer: Aristocratic Values

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. II (pp. 51-95)
Iliad, Books 19-20 (488-519)

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. III (pp. 97-147)
Iliad, Books 21-23 (pp. 520-587)

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

Reading: Iliad, Book 24 (pp. 588-614)
Ancient Greece, pp. 116-20
*Hesiod, Works and Days

23 T: The Early Development of Sparta

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. IV (pp. 150-78)

September

25 Th: The Rise of Athens -- Solon

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 180-90
Aristotle, chap.'s 1-13 (pp. 39-55)
Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Solon," pp. 42-77

26 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)

30 T Writing Workshop (How to Approach the Essays) -- with Writing Tutor Kate Delaney

October

2 Th: FIRST ESSAY IS DUE

Athenian Tyranny & Democracy: Pisistratus and Cleisthenes

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 190-200
Herodotus, Book 1.59-64 (pp. 24-28)
Aristotle, chap.'s 14-22 (pp. 55-67)

3 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)

7 T: The Persian Wars

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 201-223

9 Th: HOUR EXAM

10 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)

October

14 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)

16 Th: Growth of an Athenian Empire

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 225-37
Thucydides Book 1.1-23 (= pp. 35-49), 1.89-117 (pp. 87-103)
*inscriptions regarding the Athenian Empire

21 T: Athenian Democracy against an Imperial Background

Reading: Ancient Greece (review pp. 214-15); pp. 237-70
Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Pericles," pp. 140-79

23 Th: Democratic Institutions and Leaders

Reading: review Ancient Greece, pp. 237-42

24 F: Discussion #7: The Democracy

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

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, review pp. 235-37
Thucydides I.23-146 (pp. 49-123)

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 272-93
Thucydides, Book II (pp. 124-93)

31 F: NO RECITATIONS TODAY ("make-up": optional visit to Greek collection in Boston's Museum of Fine Arts -- to be arranged)

November

4 T: SECOND ESSAY IS DUE

Peloponnesian War, I: The Archidamian War

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 316-32

November

6 Th: Peloponnesian War, II

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 332-41

7 F: Discussion #8: Causes of the Peloponnesian War, & War Strategy

Reading: Thucydides, Book III (pp. 194-264)

11 T: VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 341-58
Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Alcibiades," chap.'s 13-18 (pp. 230-37)

14 F: Discussion #9: Thucydides: The Sicilian Expedition

Reading: Thucydides, Books 5.84-7.87 (pp. 400-537)

18 T: The Achievement of Greek Art and Architecture

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 301-313

20 Th: Does The Democracy Deserve to Rule?

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 293-301

Herodotus, Book 3.80-82 (pp. 207-09)

21 F: Discussion # 10: Socrates on Trial

Reading: Ancient Greece, review pp. 352-56

Plato's Apology (in Grube's Trial & Death of Socrates, pages 20-42)

Aristophanes, Clouds (pp. 9-113)

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

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 361-74

27-28 Th, F: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving vacation)

December

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 374-401

4 Th: THIRD ESSAY IS DUE

The Rise of Macedonia -- King Philip

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. X, pp. 404-27

5 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)

9 T: Alexander the Great

Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. XI, pp. 429-60, and pp. 462-64
Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Alexander," pp. 306-81