

MIT 21H.301 (CI-HASS-D): ANCIENT WORLD - GREECE (Fall 2010)  
COURSE SYLLABUS

Prof. Steven E. Ostrow, History Faculty  
Prof. Kathleen Delaney, Writing Advisor

Lectures: Tues., Thurs. 12:00

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

Required Books (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) Tues., Oct. 19 (**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, WRITING ADVISOR: In order to catch any early problems, and 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 Prof. Kathleen Delaney (our writing advisor for "Greece"), at which you will have the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving the quality of your writing. You are welcome to multiple tutorials!

Due Dates: Paper #1: Sept. 28 (Tuesday)  
Paper #2: Oct. 26 (Tuesday)  
Revised #1 or #2: Nov. 16 (Tuesday)  
Paper #3: December 2 (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*, 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.

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READINGS

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

September

- 9 Th: Introduction to History of the Greeks
- 10 F: Recitation: Who are "the Greeks"?
- 14 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)
- 16 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)
- 17 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)
- 21 T: The "Dark Ages"; The World of Homer: Aristocratic Values  
     Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. II (pp. 51-95)  
     Iliad, Books 19-20 (488-519)
- 23 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)
- 24 F: Discussion #2: The Iliad vs. Hesiod  
     Reading: Iliad, Book 24 (pp. 588-614)  
     Ancient Greece, pp. 116-20  
     \*Hesiod, Works and Days
- 28 T: FIRST ESSAY IS DUE  
     The Early Development of Sparta  
     Reading: Ancient Greece, chap. IV (pp. 150-78)
- 30 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

October

1 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)

5 T: 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)

7 Th: The Persian Wars

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 201-223

8 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. 109-110),  
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)

12 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)

14 Th: Growth of an Athenian Empire

15 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)

19 T: MID-TERM EXAM

21 Th: Athenian Democracy against an Imperial Background

22 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

26 T: SECOND ESSAY IS DUE

Democratic Institutions and Leaders

Reading: Ancient Greece (review pp. 214-15); pp. 237-70

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, review pp. 235-37

29 F: Discussion #7: The Democracy

Reading: Aristotle, chap.'s 23-28 (pp. 66-72), 42-69 (pp. 86-114)  
 Aristophanes, Wasps (pp. 7-117)  
 Plutarch, Greek Lives, "Pericles," pp. 140-79)

November

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 272-93  
 Thucydides I.23-146 (pp. 49-123)

## 4 Th: Peloponnesian War, I: The Archidamian War

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 316-32  
 Thucydides, Book II (pp. 124-93)

## 5 F: Discussion #8: Causes &amp; Strategy of the War

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

## 9 T: Peloponnesian War, II

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 332-41  
 Thucydides, Books 5.84-7.87 (pp. 400-537)

## 11 Th: NO CLASS -- VETERANS DAY

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

## 16 T: REVISION OF ESSAY #1 OR #2 DUE

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)

## 18 Th: Does The Democracy Deserve to Rule?

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 293-301  
 Herodotus, Book 3.80-82 (pp. 207-09)

19 F: Discussion # 9: 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)

## 23 T: The Achievement of Greek Art and Architecture

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 301-313

25-26 Th, F: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving vacation)

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

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 361-74

December

2 Th: THIRD ESSAY IS DUE

Fourth Century Greece: The Economic and Social Dimension

Reading: Ancient Greece, pp. 374-401

3 F: "Discussion #10": at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (to Greek [and Etruscan/Roman?] Collections) -- details to be announced (your MIT ID gains you free entry!)

7 T: The Rise of Macedonia -- King Philip

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

9 Th: Alexander the Great

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

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<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.301 The Ancient World: Greece  
Fall 2004

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