

The University of North Carolina

HIS 207-02: The Hellenistic World
MWF 10:00-10:50am; MHRA 1214
Instructor: Dustin Cranford
Email: dscanfo@uncg.edu
Office: MHRA 2111

Fall Semester 2011

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-8:50am, 11:00-11:30am, and by appointment.

Course Description

The death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE left his fledgling empire in shambles. Satraps (governors) quickly revolted, forming their own power centers, alliances fell apart, old prosperous cities reasserted their independence, and the briefly united Macedonian, Greek, and Persian realms quickly fell into incessant and tumultuous wars. As the dust of war eventually settled, some recognizable and somewhat stable kingdoms began to take shape, many of which formed by Alexander's former generals. Amidst the raging conflict, however, some astonishing cultural developments did take place. Alexander's bellicose path of conquest open the way for a flood of Greek culture, which came into contact and interacted with the multitude of native cultures in the territories of the old Persian Empire. This influx of Greek culture did not supplant the indigenous culture, nor did it fade away. Some elements took root, while others were cast aside, while even others intermingled with their native counterparts. The result was not a complete expansion of Greek (Hellenic) culture, but rather an imitation of it, formed by the interaction and/or integration of the indigenous and imported Greek cultures. This is the Hellenistic world; a world that was inspired by Greek culture, but one that remembered its indigenous heritage.

This was truly a cosmopolitan world, where dynasties headed by proud Macedonian families ruled over a vast array of indigenous populations, Greek and indigenous customs flourished, and new schools of philosophical and religious thought developed. While the Hellenistic kingdoms bickered amongst each other, new dangers loomed on the eastern and western horizons, in the form of the Romans and the Parthians, each of whom would aid in bringing the Hellenistic world to a close.

This course will trace the political and cultural developments of the Hellenistic world from the death of Alexander the Great (323 BCE) to the Battle of Actium (33 BCE). Students will learn about the various kingdoms that arose after Alexander's death, their individual histories, wars, and political developments. This class will also study the myriad of philosophical, religious, and cultural developments, showing how the Hellenistic period shaped intellectual thought. Moreover, this course will look to the periphery of the Hellenistic world, observe the rise of Parthia and Rome, and study their influence and interaction with the Successor States. By the end of the course, students should be able to answer some prevailing questions:

- Can the incessant conflict and warfare in the Hellenistic period be characterized as an "East-West Conflict" that is rooted in the ambitions of the Persian Empire?

- In what ways did the Hellenistic world influence the perception of man and the universe for philosophers and theologians?
- Can any of the Hellenistic kingdoms be deemed as a “success?” Can any be described as irrevocable failures?
- In what ways did the Hellenistic world influence the Parthian and Roman kingdoms that succeeded it?

Contact Info: Email is the best way to contact me. I will respond within 24 hours.

Learning Goals

At the conclusion of this course, students will also be able to:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources.
4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.

Books –

R. Malcolm Errington. *A History of the Hellenistic World* - ISBN 978-063-123-388-6

Roger S. Bagnall, and Peter Derow, eds. *The Hellenistic Period* - ISBN 978-020-569-522-5

Note: We will be following Errington’s narrative closely, so it is imperative that you read the assigned sections. This will serve as a helpful guide and supplement to the lectures.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is paramount for a successful completion of this class. After three absences, your final grade will be reduced by one point for each absence. If you have special and unavoidable circumstances that prevent you from attending class, it will be your responsibility to notify me. Moreover, please be on time as tardiness is disrespectful and disruptive to both your classmates and myself. If tardiness becomes an issue (over three), a third of a point will begin to be deducted from the final grade.

Cell Phone and Laptop Use

Laptops will be allowed for note taking purposes. If I find that you are on facebook, chatting, or playing games, I will ask you to turn your laptop off. You may not think so, but this can be extremely distracting for those around you, and is extremely disrespectful to the instructor.

As for cell phones, please put them on vibrate or turn them off completely. Texting in class is prohibited. It is extremely disrespectful to the instructor and unprofessional.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of the honor code. Any violations will be dealt with according to the Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>). Don't do it! This includes any and all plagiarism from websites. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. However, I recognize the frustration and confusion of using sources for research and writing, and the resultant fear of being accused of plagiarism. Your safest route is to ALWAYS use citations if you use ideas from another author or source (even if it's a website).

Assignments

I understand that the Greek names and terms involved in studying the Hellenistic world can lead to confusion. After all, everyone in the Ptolemaic dynasty was called "Ptolemy," the Seleucids alternated constantly between "Seleucus" and "Antiochus," while the Antigonids in Macedon alternated between "Antigonus" and "Demetrios." To address this, I have decided to give multiple quizzes throughout the semester while the information is fresh on your mind, hopefully helping to alleviate some of the confusion. There will be **six quizzes**, roughly every other week. The quizzes will consist of Short ID's (matching), and two short answer questions. (Learning Goals 1 and 4)

There will be **two major exams** around the turn of each month, each following two quizzes. These will consist of short ID's, two short-answer essays, and one long essay. There will be also be a **take-home final exam** at the end of the semester, which will be of a similar composition, but with a cumulative aspect. (Learning Goals 1, 2, and 4)

Lastly, there will be **one 3-5 page paper** due in the second third of the semester. Students will be given a selection of possible topics and prompts, and provided with the appropriate source materials. (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Moreover, you will be graded on **participation**. This will be measured by frequency with which you speak up and ask questions in class, and how much you contribute in discussion days. Students with sterling attendance will receive a little "bump" (an extra point or two) in the their participation grade.

The **grade percentages** for assignments will be as follows:

Quizzes:	20% (combined)
First Exam:	20%
Second Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Participation:	10%
Paper:	10%

Blackboard

This course will extensively use blackboard to access readings on E-reserve. Be sure to check it regularly!

Other Class Requirements and Rules

1. Be sure to keep all graded assignments until the end of the semester. You may need them!
2. All course requirements and assignments must be completed in order to pass this class. No incomplete work!
3. Late assignments will be penalized **half a letter grade** for each day past the due date. If you cannot turn an assignment in on time for whatever reason, it is **your** responsibility to contact me.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

August 22 – Nuts’N’Bolts/Introduction to course and course mechanics.

August 24 – Persia and Greece

Secondary Source Reading: Maria Brosius, *The Persians*, 1-37

Primary Source Reading: Herodotus: 486-495

August 26 – Macedon and Alexander the Great

Secondary Source Reading: Walbank, *The Hellenistic World*, 31-49

Primary Source Reading: Plutarch, “Alexander,” 1-75

August 29 – Alexander the Great continued...

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 1-12

Primary Source Reading: Plutarch, “Alexander,” 1-75

August 31 – Perdiccas, Antigonos “the One-Eyed”, and war

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 13-36

Primary Source Reading: Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 8-15, 24-26

September 2 – Quiz/Discussion

September 5 – Labor Day

September 7 – Antigonos, Ipsos and consolidation

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 36-45

Primary Source Reading: Plutarch, “Demetrios,” 135-180

September 9 – Demetrios “the Besieger” and the end of the first generation of the Hellenistic period.

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 51-62

Primary Source Reading: Plutarch, “Demetrios,” 135-180

September 12 – Kings and Cities

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 62-76, 139-142

- Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 32-37, 46-47, 139-140
- September 14 – Affairs in Europe
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 79-90
Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 16-23
- September 16 – Quiz/Discussion
- September 19 – Affairs in Europe
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 90-110
Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 27-29
- September 21 – *Arche Seleukeia*
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 111-131
Primary Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 41, 45, 49-51, 55-62
- September 23 – Seleucids
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 131-138
Sherwin-White & Kurht, *From Samarkand to Sardis*: 51-59, 72-84, 103-105, 107-111
- September 26 - Egypt
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 143-154
Primary Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 144-162
- September 28 – Egypt
Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 154-161
Primary Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 206-227
- September 30 – Quiz/Discussion
- October 3 – City-States and Leagues
Secondary Source Reading: Grant, *From Alexander to Cleopatra*: 105-123
Primary Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 62-64, 119-123
- October 5 – Hellenistic Colonialism
Secondary Source Reading: Billows, *Kings and Colonists*: 146-178
- October 7 – **First Exam**
- October 10 – Fall Break
- October 12 – The cultural composition of the Hellenistic World
Secondary Source Reading: 60-79
Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 229-234; 241-244

October 14 – Quiz/Discussion

October 17 – Last day to drop

Philosophy and Religion

Secondary Source Reading: Grant, *From Alexander to Cleopatra*: 214-252

Primary Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 259-260, 262-264

October 19 - The Arts and Sciences

Secondary Source Reading: Grant, *From Alexander to Cleopatra*: 149-180

October 21 – The Idea of Hellenistic kingship

Secondary Source Reading: Errington: 139-142

Sherwin-White and Khurt: 112-135

October 24 – Hellenistic Armies and Warfare

Secondary Source Reading: Billows, *Antigonos the “One Eyed”*: 353-361

Primary Source Reading: 199-206

October 26 – Hellenistic Women

Secondary Source Reading: Grant, *From Alexander to Cleopatra*, 194-213

October 28 – Quiz/Discussion

October 31 – Back in *Arche Seleukeia*: Antiochus III

Text: Errington, 214-220

Sherwin-White and Khurt, 188-201 (possibly 202-209)

November 2 – An Urban Society: Alexandria, Antioch, and Pergamon

Secondary Source Reading: Green, *Alexander to Actium*, 155-170

Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 139-140,

November 4 – **Second Exam**

November 7 –Rome and Greece

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 250-255

Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 64-78

November 9 – Rome and Macedon

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 198-213, 241-250

Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 82-84,

November 11 – Rome and the Seleucids

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 165-170; 256-260

Sherwin-White and Khurt, 210-217

Primary Source Reading: Livy, 188-192, 332-334, 212-213, 312-313

November 14 – Rome and Ptolemaic Egypt

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 299-304

Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 92-93, 118-119

November 16- Pontus, Mithridates, and the “Mithridatic Wars.”

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 282-290

Primary Source Reading: Bagnall and Derow, 102-105

November 18 – Quiz/Discussion

November 21 – Asia Minor

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 260-267

Paper due!

November 23 – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 25 – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28 - The End of the Seleucids: Antiochus the IV and the end of a dynasty

Text: Errington, 267-278

Sherwin-White and Khurt, 217-223, 225-230.

November 30 – The Parthians

Secondary Source Reading: Brosius, *The Persians*, 81-100

December 2 – The Roman Settlement of the East

Secondary Source Reading: Errington, 305-309

December 5 – Last Day of Class

- Review, Legacy of the Hellenistic World

December 9 – **Final Exam due**