

HIS/CCI 351: Ancient Greece

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Office Hours: 10-11 MWF

Required Texts (all available at UNCG Bookstore)

John Camp and Elizabeth Fisher, *The World of the Ancient Greeks* (CF)
Bernard Knox (ed.), *The Norton Book of Classical Literature* (Norton)
Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Richard Lattimore
Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Richard Lattimore

Ancient Greece covers a long period of time—roughly 2000 B.C. to A.D. 500—and is necessarily divided into several separate periods marked by distinct historical conditions. Greek history is the story of those conditions, but it is also the story of the different kinds of responses to those conditions by contemporaneous Greeks. This course follows these parallel stories. That is, we will examine the characteristic political, economic, and social conditions marking successive periods and at the same time examine the responses, meaning the attempts to make sense of and find meaning in the experienced realities of a given period. Greeks at different times discovered different forms of expression which we know by names such as myth, religions, epic, lyric poetry, science, history, drama, and philosophy. To familiarize ourselves with these forms, we will be reading a lot of Greek literature, but we want to approach it not as “literature” but as a record of experience and problem solving. Think then of two questions we will be asking as we move through successive periods of Greek history: 1) what is the situation (think of what it means to be living in this particular Greek world)? And 2) what is the response or responses (observations, reflections) that contemporaries made to the experiences of life in successive periods?

Class Schedule/Assignments (reading assignments are to be completed by the time of the class connected with them)

8/22 Introduction

8/24 Overview CF 6-23; Norton 21-44

Origins/Mycenaean Age

8/26 Greece and the Aegean before Greeks CF 25-33, 48-51

8/29 Mycenaean Origins CF 34-47

8/31 Linear B Tablets Handout and website:
<http://www.ancientscripts.com/linearb.html>

9/2 History, Myth, and Religion CF 52-55, 142-159; familiarize yourself with
this website <http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/greek/articles.html>

9/5 Labor Day Holiday

9/7 Collapse of the Mycenaean World CF 56-57

Individual, Community, and Cosmos: Dark Age/Archaic Age

9/9 Beginnings of the Polis CF 58-65; *Iliad* Books 1-4, 13-16

9/12 Trading and Borrowing CF 66-73; *Iliad*, Books 18-24

9/14 Homer 1: Old Stories, New Problems *Odyssey*, Books 1-12

9/16 Homer 2: Being Greek *Odyssey*, Books 13-24

9/19 Hesiod: Work as Order CF 74-75; Norton 187-201

9/21 Lyric Poets: Discovering the Self Norton 202-231

9/23 Physicists: Discovering Mind Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes; Norton 231-233

9/26 First Exam

9/28 Greek Cities CF 77-109

9/30 After Aristocracy Norton, 209-212

10/3 Aristocracy after Aristocracy From Banquet to Symposium

10/5 Athens in Particular

10/7 Greeks and Persians

10/10 Fall Break

Classical Age: Power and Purpose

10/12 Persian War CF 110-115

10/14 Rise of Athens CF 116-125

10/17 Making Sense of Things: Herodotus, Hubris, and History Norton, 267-299

10/19 Democracy

- 10/22 Dealing with the New World: Art and Architecture CF 126-133**
- 10/24 Dealing with the New World: Tragedy CF 134-137; Norton, 305-333, 359-400**
- 10/26 Dealing with the New World: Comedy Norton, 446-476**
- 10/28 Dealing with the New World: Philosophy Norton, 493-500**
- 10/31 Peloponnesian War 1 CF 141**
- 11/2 Thucydides' Mission**
[http://www.greektxts.com/library/Hippocrates/On_Airs, Waters, And Places/eng/index.html](http://www.greektxts.com/library/Hippocrates/On_Airs,_Waters,_And_Places/eng/index.html); Norton, 334-356
- 11/4 Peloponnesian War 2**
- 11/7 Assessing the 5th Century B.C.**
- 11/9 Second Exam**
- 11/11 Crisis of the Polis System 404-338**
<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/historians/narrative/4thcent.html>
- 11/14 More Historians: Xenophon, Ephorus, Theopompus**
- 11/16 Finding Order: Plato**
- 11/18 Living Order: Cynics and Stoics**
- 11/21 The Macedonian Conquests CF 188-195;**
<http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/lecture9b.html>
- 11/23-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 11/28 Greeks in Non-Greek Worlds CF 196-199**
- 11/30 Greece and Greeks in the Roman Age CF 200-207; Norton 595-603, 643-650**
- 12/2 Christianity and Greeks CF 208-211**
- 12/5 Greeks and Christianity Norton 833-852**
- 12/12 FINAL EXAM 12-3 p.m.**

