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

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
http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/lecture9b.html  CF 188-195;

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.