

Why study ancient Greek history? If we were Greek, we might say “to learn about our ancestors and their achievements”. But if not Greek, why? The answer is really the same. We are all in so many ways heirs to the Greek achievement that the ancient Greeks are everyone’s ancestors. A statement by Hesiod, 7th century BC poet and farmer, furnishes the key to grasping the distinctive Greek imperative: “That man is altogether best who considers all things himself and marks what will be better afterwards and at the end; and he, again, is good who listens to a good adviser; but whoever neither thinks for himself nor keeps in mind what another tells him, he is an unprofitable man” (*Works and Days*, 295-297). Like people of any other long lasting society, ancient Greeks had a lengthy history which unfolded in a number of distinct stages involving different social, political, and cultural phases. What makes the Greek experience so significant is not what happened, but the sustained effort on the part of Greeks to make sense of things. This incessant curiosity and attentiveness grew out of early political necessity, but it ultimately addressed every imaginable object. In this course, as we follow the developments of Greek history, we will also be following the Greek response to Greek history—the effort to understand and convey an understanding of the human experience as they knew it. We will find that we ask many of the same questions and find many of the Greek answers still valid.

Thus we are going to use a single narrative history text and a brief illustrated text to follow the important developments of ancient Greek history in its successive stages. We will also be reading a succession of works—epic, didactic, and lyric poetry, early prose, history writings, tragedy and comedy, speeches, philosophic dialogues to gain an understanding of the forms and content of the Greek responses to the Greek experience. Except for the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, all these readings are online.

4 Reading Responses 20%
2 Short Papers 20%
3 Exams 60%

(Reading Response and Paper Topics to be assigned separately)

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes. More than 2 unexcused absences will reduce final grade.

Required Texts (all available at UNCG Bookstore)

Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece* (= M)

John Camp and Elizabeth Fisher, *The World of the Ancient Greeks* (= CF)

Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Richard Lattimore

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Richard Lattimore

(important to have Lattimore translations so lines will read the same for everyone)

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

8/18 Introduction/Overview

Beginnings: Greece and the Aegean before the Greeks

8/20 Mycenaean Age: First Greeks, Arrival and Settlement M 1-34; CF 6-35

8/25 Mycenaean Age: Cretans, Greeks, and Mediterranean Commerce M 34-40; CF 37-51

8/27 Mycenaean Age: World of the Linear B Tablets Handout and website:

<http://www.ancientscripts.com/linearb.html>

9/1 Collapse and Continuities

M 40-51; CF 52-57; Homer, Iliad

9/3 New Beginnings: From the Dark Age to the Archaic Age M 51-64; CF 58-65;

Homer, Odyssey

9/8 Trade, Colonization, and Consequences M 65-90; CF 66-75; Hesiod, Works and Days

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hesiod/works.htm>

9/10 Archaic Age Politics: Tyrants, Lawgivers, Sages, and Scientists M 91-93, 103-106;

Alcaeus: <http://mkatz.web.wesleyan.edu/Images2/cciv243.Alcaeus.html>

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/thales>;

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaximander>

Pythagoras: <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/Biographies/Pythagoras.html>

9/15 Borrowings and Adaptations: Archaic Temples and Sculpture

http://www.artic.edu/~llivin/research/ionic_architecture

9/17 Sparta

M 93-103; Plutarch, Life of

Lycurgus: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/lycurgus.html>

9/22 Athens

M 106-115; Aristotle, Athenian

Constitution, Section 1: http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/athenian_const.1.1.html

9/24 EXAM 1

9/29 Persian War 1: Ionian Revolt

M 121-129; Herodotus Books I,

and VI: <http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.1.i.html>

<http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.5.v.html>

10/1 Persian War 2: 480-479 BCE

M 130-137; CF 110-115

10/8 Radical Democracy at Athens M 141-157; CF 116-125;
Old Oligarch <http://courses.ttu.edu/gforsyth/oo.htm>
Sophocles, *Antigone* <http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html>

10/13 FALL BREAK

10/15 Athenian Culture and Society M 158-185; CF 126-137
<https://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/education/thucydides.html>;
<http://www.ancient-greece.org/architecture/parthenon.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WveFXYxt9o> (video)

Parthenon pediment:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Athens#/media/File:Reconstruction_of_the_west_pediment_of_the_Parthenon_1.jpg

10/20 Peloponnesian War to 421 M 186-198;
Thucydides, Peloponnesian
War, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7142/7142-h/7142-h.htm#link2HCH0001>
Read Book 1, Chapters 2-3, end of Chapter 5 (the funeral oration by Pericles)

10/22 Peloponnesian War to 404 M 198-211; Xen. *Hell.* 2.1.1-2.3.20 =
<http://www.attalus.org/info/xenophon.html> (click on *Hellenica*, Book 2)

10/27 EXAM 2

10/29 Revolution and Recovery M 211-214; Xen. *Hell.* 2.3.11-2.4.43 =
<http://www.attalus.org/info/xenophon.html> (click on *Hellenica*, Book 2 and scroll
down to section 3.11 to start)

11/3 Socrates M 214-220; Protagoras:
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Lives_of_the_Eminent_Philosophers/Book_IX#Protagoras
Dissoi Logoi http://www.constitution.org/gr/dissoi_logoi.html
Apology <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

11/5 4th century Quest for Stability: Politics and Philosophy M 221-238
Plato, *Republic* Book VII: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html>

11/10 Rise of Macedon M 239-243

11/12 Alexander of Macedon M 243-252; CF 188-195;
<http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/lecture9b.html>;
Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*, Book 1: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/alexandr.html>

11/17 Hellenistic Age: Successor Kingdoms M 253-262

11/19 Hellenistic Age: Economy and Society M 262-266; CF 196-199

11/24 Hellenistic Age: Ideas and Beliefs **M 266-280; Stoicism:**
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoicism>

11/26 THANKSGIVING

2/1 Greece and Greeks in the Roman Empire **CF 200-207; M 281-282**

12/5 EXAM 3 3:30-6:30 (Note: this is a Saturday)