

Syllabus

History 206 02

Mediterranean World (Prehistory to 640 CE) MWF 9:00-9:50 MHRA 1214

Fall 2016

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Office Hours: Friday, 10:00am-12:00pm

Introduction: This class will focus on the eastern and western civilizations of the Mediterranean from the origins of man to the end of antiquity around the mid-seventh century CE. The class will pay particular attention to the evolution and continuity of Mediterranean peoples and societies, recurring themes in different locations and times, causality of historical events, and cultural diffusion and diversity. The class will also spend time examining and discussing primary sources from Mediterranean antiquity to gain further knowledge of how people viewed their time and place through stories, art, and material culture.

Class Objectives: The UNCG department of history has composed a list of 4 key learning goals for history majors. While some of you are not history majors, these goals are still important in establishing guidelines for how we approach the subjects. The department guidelines are as follows:

- 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. [Historical Comprehension]**
- 2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]**
- 3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]**
- 4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]**

Class Policies: As your instructor I hope to effectively guide you through this material, but a few rules are necessary to ensure that this process is as enriching and productive as possible.

CANVAS:

We will be using Canvas for assignments, announcements, and email communication. It will help to become familiar with it as soon as possible. I will post an active syllabus through Canvas that may change through the course of the semester. Keep a hard copy with your notes and refer to the online copy as needed. Supplementary reading material will also be posted on Canvas. All extra reading material for this course (other than the physical texts) will be located in the **Files** section of Canvas including some secondary texts, primary sources, and any other related material.

Please Note: Canvas is a new platform. Many of us are using it for the first time. Please be patient, the new layout is intuitive and ultimately will be more efficient than the old system (Blackboard) but there may be a glitch or two as I continue to acclimatize to the format.

*******Attendance Policy:** Attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; students with unexcused absences will have points deducted from the participation category; excused absence such as illness or a family emergency must be documented. **Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off. Anyone using an electronic device in class will be ejected immediately and penalized with an unexcused absence for that day.*******

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Required Texts: Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014) 2nd edition.

Homer, *The Odyssey of Homer*, Translated by Richmond Lattimore (New York: Harper Perennial, 1965, 2007).

Assigned Reading and Notes: History requires a great deal of reading. The best strategy for this is to allow at least a couple of hours a day for reading assigned texts. Taking notes while reading is a very effective way to focus on what can sometimes be dense or complicated subjects. The more you understand the progression and cause of events by careful reading, the easier the other assignments will be.

Each week you will be responsible for turning in notes from that week's assigned chapter. Notes are due on Monday before 9 a.m. by upload onto the Canvas coursesite. A handout outlining strategies for notetaking is available in the File section of the site. Notes should be 3-5 pages long per chapter.

Other Assignments: These are the other types of assignments you can expect during the course of the semester. I will provide handouts via Canvas with detailed instructions for each of the assignments.

1. A primary source evaluation analyzing the values and aesthetics of a particular culture/cultures. Assignment length: two pages, double-spaced.
2. A film synopsis and analysis. Film will be posted on Canvas earlier in the week, film analysis worksheet posted on Friday at 9.
3. Chapter synopsis in essay form. Assignment length: two pages, double-spaced.
4. Research exercises including locating and evaluating sources and correct Chicago Style citation.

Exams: There will be two exams during the session, a mid-term and a final.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Attendance/Participation 25%

Notes/Assignments 25%

Midterm 25%

Final 25%

SCHEDULE:

Week of:

August 22:

Chapters 1&2 of AMC, Introduction of David Abulafia's *The Great Sea* (Canvas)
Introduction/Mesopotamia

August 29:

Chapter 3 of AMC, *Ishtar's Descent into the Underworld; Excerpts from Gilgamesh* (Canvas),
Mesopotamia/Egypt and the Bronze Age

September 5: Monday: No Class, Labor Day.

Chapter 4 of AMC, *Princess Ahura: The Magic Book* (Canvas), Abulafia, *The Purple Traders*
(Canvas), Coastal Civilizations of the Eastern Med/The Iron Age in the Eastern Med.

September 12:

Chapter 5 of AMC, Article: *Ships in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Canvas), Assyria/Iron Age
Empires/Babylonia and Persia.

September 19:

Read: Chapter 6 of AMC, Introduction of *The Odyssey*, Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages.

September 26:

Chapter 7 of AMC, Book 1-4 *The Odyssey*, Sparta/Athens and the Classical Age.

October 3:

Chapter 8 of AMC, Book 5-9 *The Odyssey*, Alexander the Great/The Hellenistic Age.

October 10:

Book 10-15 *The Odyssey*, The Hellenistic Age cont. **Midterm Exam: Friday October 14th.**

October 17:

Monday: No Class, Fall Break. Book 16-20 *The Odyssey*.

October 24:

Chapter 9 of AMC, Book 21-24 *The Odyssey*, The Rise of Rome/The Roman Republic.

October 31:

Chapter 10 of AMC, *Slavery in the Roman Republic* (Canvas), Decline of Republic/The Principate.

November 7:

Chapter 11 of AMC, *Plutarch, The Training of Children* (Canvas) The Roman Peace.

November 14:

Chapter 12 of AMC, *Alaric's Sack of Rome* (Canvas) The Late Roman Empire/ Constantine/the Rise of Christianity.

November 21: Wednesday-Friday: No Class, Thanksgiving.

Chapter 13 of AMC, *Procopius, The Plague*.

November 28:

Chapter 14 of AMC, The End of Antiquity.

December 5:

Wrap up, exam review.