

History 206 03
Mediterranean World (Prehistory to 600 CE)
Fall Semester, 2017
MHRA 1214, 3:30-4:45 MW

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Introduction: This class will focus on the eastern and western civilizations of the Mediterranean from the origins of human societies to the end of antiquity around the 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 primary sources from Mediterranean antiquity to gain further knowledge of how people viewed their time and place through stories, art, and material culture.

Reading:

All reading material will be posted on Canvas. A major portion of the reading for the course will be drawn from Ralph W. Mathisen's *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations* and David Abulafia's *the Great Sea: a Human History of the Mediterranean*.

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]**

Academic Integrity: The student must not misrepresent work that is not their own. This is called plagiarism. Any student practicing plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs for further action, and receive a failing grade in this class. It is very important to me to hear your own interpretation of the material in your own words. If you

strive toward this goal, consistently attend class, study for tests and quizzes, and participate thoughtfully in discussion you will do well in the course. For more information on academic integrity see: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>

This course fulfills the following student learning outcomes:

General Education Category Title: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

Category Description:

Students use an historical approach to a specific region and period to explore the context of events (social structure, economics, political systems, culture, or beliefs), evaluate evidence and divergent interpretations, and communicate historical ideas in writing.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Category Title: Global Perspectives (GL)

Marker Description:

In a course in any subject, students focus on the interconnections among regions of the world, interpret and evaluate information on diverse ecologies, human societies, artistic achievements, or political systems, and gain sensitivity to cultural differences on a global scale.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

General Education Global Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

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 reading material for this course will be located in the **Files** section of Canvas including secondary texts, primary sources, and any other related material.

CLASS POLICIES:

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

Attendance: It is very important that you attend every class session. Absences will affect your final grade. **More than five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.** Habitual lateness will also be reflected in your final grade. Try to be prompt in getting to class. If there is a problem getting to class on time please let me know as far in advance as possible.

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off at all times. If I **SEE** a cell phone it will result in an unexcused absence for the day. **The use of any electronic devices in this class is prohibited.**

All course requirements must be completed to receive a passing grade for the class. Students should keep copies of all graded assignments until the end of the semester.

Assignments are expected to be handed in on their assigned due date; if legitimate circumstances arise (such as an illness) it is your responsibility to contact me. Unexcused late work will be penalized accordingly.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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. The quizzes and discussions in this class are designed to assess your understanding and analysis of the material. 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 there will either be an **open notes quiz, an open note discussion, or an in-class primary source exercise**, based on the reading and lecture from the previous week. All of these activities will be counted toward your final assignment grade. The **best** results will come from those who have taken the time to write notes as they read and attend lecture. You will need a **notebook and a reliable writing utensil/s every class. *****Laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted.*******

For information about turning in assignments on Canvas refer to:

<http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/1/54353?data-resolve-url=true&data-manual-id=4212>

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

Receiving Grades: Grades for notes, assignments and exams can be viewed on Canvas as the semester progresses. This will also allow for you to track your overall percentage. Remember that some assignments are weighed less than others so the cumulative percentage may not reflect your progress with total accuracy until the end of the semester. See me during office hours for any questions about your progress in the class.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Attendance/Participation 25%
Notes/Assignments 25%
Midterm 25%
Final 25%

SCHEDULE:

Week of:

August 14:

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

August 21:

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

August 28:

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 4: No Class on Monday: Labor Day

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

September 11:

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

September 18:

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

September 25:

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

October 2:

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

October 9:

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

October 16:

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

October 23:

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

October 30:

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

November 6:

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

November 13: Wednesday-Friday: No Class, Thanksgiving.

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

November 20:

Chapter 14 of AMC, The End of Antiquity.

November 27:

Wrap up, exam review.