

History 206 03
Mediterranean World (Prehistory to 640 CE)
Online: Fall, 2019

Instructor: Ian Michie

immichie@uncg.edu

(336) 745 1888

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 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]**

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. Current Student Learning Outcomes, for period 2016-2020:

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

LG3. Knowledge of Human Histories, Cultures, and the Self: Describe, interpret, and evaluate the ideas, events, and expressive traditions that have shaped collective and individual human

experience through inquiry and analysis in the diverse disciplines of the humanities, religions, languages, histories, and the arts.

LG1. Foundational Skills: Think critically, communicate effectively, and develop appropriate fundamental skills in quantitative and information literacies. [GRD, WI, SI, GLT, GFA, GPR, GHP, GMT, GNS, GSB, GL, GN]

REQUIRED MATERIAL: General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

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.

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 session. 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 chapters from the text, primary sources, and any other related material.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assigned Reading: History requires a great deal of reading. The best strategy for this is to allow at least some time every day for reading. Assignments 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 through assigned reading, the easier the other assignments will be.

Much of our readings will come from: *Ralph W. Mathisen, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)*. You are not required to purchase this book, all of the chapters will be posted to the **Files** section of Canvas. I will also be posting content relative to the course and assignments in the File section.

Assignments: Each week, by **5pm Wednesday**, I will post the week's assignments in the **Assignments** section of Canvas. You will be responsible for at least one assignment (but sometimes more) every week. Below are some types of assignments you can expect each week.

- 1) A two to three page bullet point outline for the chapter/s assigned for that week. (SLO1)

- 2) A summary and critique of a film addressing periods or topics from Mediterranean history. (SLO 1&2)
- 3) A one page, single spaced, reflective essay addressing a theme or themes from that week's reading. I will provide the prompt/s for this when I post the assignments. (SLO 1&2)
- 4) A one page, single-spaced, analysis of a primary document and/or image. (SLO 1&2)
- 5) A historical fiction exercise. (SLO 1&2)

Assignments for each week will be due on **Tuesday at 5pm**. For example: if I post an assignment/s on August 21 it/they will be due the following Tuesday, August 27 at 5pm. You are free to work ahead and post before the due date. I will try to have course material for the next week posted on Sundays, Monday morning at the latest. This will become clearer to you in the first week so please be patient and trust the process. Student have picked up the requirements and schedule of this class very quickly in the past as I'm sure you will.

Exams: There will be two exams during the session. These will be at-home, open book/notes exams consisting of identification of key terms, short answers about important concepts, and analytical essays on broader themes. The final exam is not cumulative (in other words, it will only cover the material from the second half of the semester). You will have 48 hours from the time of its posting to complete it and return it to me. Weekly assignments will be adjusted during this time to allow you time to complete the exams.

- Mid-term will be posted to the **Files** section of Canvas at 5pm Wednesday, October 9. It will be due no later than 5pm, Friday, October 11.
- The final will be posted to the **Files** section of Canvas at 5pm, Wednesday, Dec. 4. It will be due no later than 5pm, Friday, Dec. 6.

Turning in Assignments and Exams: You should turn in all assignments to me by uploading them to the course site on Canvas in a Word document or PDF. For instructions on how to do this refer to this link:

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

Receiving Grades: Each week, by Friday afternoon at the latest, I will post the grades from the past week on Canvas in the **Grades** section.

Video check-in: I am experimenting with an app called Loom this semester with which I plan to post videos that will include instruction and announcements. They may also include an assignment element to check that you've viewed them. Please look out for them as the semester progresses.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Because this class does not meet face-to-face, you will be assessed mainly on your assignments and exams. Promptness in turning in assignments will also factor in to your final grade. Please try to be timely with your assignments. Late work will be penalized accordingly.

Weekly Assignments: 33.3%

Mid-term: 33.3%

Final 33.3%

Telephone Office Hours: I will be available at the cellphone number listed above from 11am to 1pm every Friday. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call. I am also usually available to take calls (at a reasonable hour) during the week, so if these hours don't work with your schedule you may call then. I will also respond to text messages and email.

I'm looking forward to working with you this session and I welcome you to the online course.

This course will use the following topic list and chronology to guide us through the events of the subject.

- Introduction/Mesopotamia
- Mesopotamia/Egypt and the Bronze Age
- Coastal Civilizations of the Eastern Med/The Iron Age in the Eastern Med.
- Assyria/Iron Age Empires/Babylonia and Persia.
- Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages.
- Sparta/Athens and the Classical Age.
- Alexander the Great/The Hellenistic Age.
- The Rise of Rome/The Roman Republic.
- Decline of Republic/The Principate.
- The Roman Peace.
- The Late Roman Empire/ Constantine/the Rise of Christianity.
- The End of Antiquity.