

History 207-05

## Mediterranean World (Prehistory to 640 CE)

MWF 9:00-9:50 MHRA 1214

Instructor: Ian Michie

[immichie@uncg.edu](mailto:immichie@uncg.edu)

(336) 745 1888

Office: 2102 MHRA

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.

**Attendance:** To be successful in this class it is mandatory that you attend every class session. However, I understand that things come up and that excused absences are necessary from time to time. If you have an event that will keep you from coming to class please let me know as far ahead as possible. Also remind me in person or by email the week of your absence. In the case of sudden illness or family emergency please email me as soon as it is possible.

Attendance will be taken before every class session. Excessive absences will affect your overall grade. Any more than three will cost you 1/3 of a letter grade. After eight unexcused absences you will not be able to pass the class.

Habitual lateness will also reflect in your final grade. Try to be prompt in getting to class.

Cell phones must be turned off at all times. If I **SEE** a cell phone it will result in an unexcused absence for the day.

All course requirements must be completed to receive a 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.

**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>**

Blackboard:

We will be using Blackboard for assignments, announcements, and email communication. I will do a short demonstration the first week of class but it will help to become familiar with it as soon as possible. I will post an active syllabus on Blackboard 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 Blackboard.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Assigned Reading:** Throughout the semester I will be posting on Blackboard documents related to Mediterranean history. The student will be required to read the document carefully and be prepared for a quiz the Friday of the assigned weekly reading. Quizzes will be based on readings from the Ralph Mathisen text, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations* and assigned primary and secondary documents.

**Tests:** There will be four tests over the course of the semester covering the material in the text book and some supplementary material such as Homer's *The Odyssey*. The tests will consist of I.D. questions, short answers, and an essay question. A study guide will be posted on Blackboard

a week before the test date. Time permitting, there will be a review session the class period before each test. It is important to be present for this review session.

**Research:** Students will be required to complete a research paper of no less than eight pages focusing on an individual from Mediterranean antiquity. Two options are available. Option 1: students produce a traditional research paper that makes an original argument or, Option 2: students create a work of historical fiction that incorporates historically accurate information. Both options will require no less than four credible sources. I will post a handout with more details about the assignment during the semester.

**Required Texts:**

Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

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

**Grade Breakdown:**

Quizzes	10%
Discussion/Participation	10%
Tests	40%
Research Paper	30%
Attendance	10%

**Schedule:**

Week 1: **Read:** Chapters 1&2 of AMC

Mon 1/14: Introduction/Origins

Wed 1/16: Origins/Mesopotamia

Fri 1/18: Quiz/discussion

Week 2: **Read:** Chapter 3 of AMC

*Ishtar's Descent into the Underworld; Excerpts from Gilgamesh* (Blackboard)

Mon 1/21: **No Class: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

Wed 1/23: Mesopotamia/Egypt and the Bronze Age

Fri 1/25: Quiz/discussion

Week 3: **Read:** Chapter 4 of AMC

*Princess Ahura: The Magic Book* (Blackboard)

Mon 1/28: Coastal Civilizations of the Eastern Med.

Wed 1/30: The Iron Age in the Eastern Med.

Fri 2/1: Quiz/discussion

Week 4: **Read:** Chapter 5 of AMC

Article: *Ships in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Blackboard)

Mon 2/4: Iron Age Empires/Assyria; **1<sup>st</sup> study guide posted**

Wed 2/6: Iron Age Empires/Babylonia and Persia

Fri 2/8: Test review

Week 5: **Read:** Chapter 6 of AMC; Introduction of *The Odyssey*

Mon 2/11: **Test #1**

Wed 2/13: Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages

Fri 2/15: Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages cont.

Week 6: **Read:** Chapter 7 of AMC; Book 1-4 *The Odyssey*

Mon 2/18: Sparta

Wed 2/20: Athens and the Classical Age

Fri 2/22: Quiz/discussion

Week 7: **Read:** Chapter 8 of AMC; Book 5-9 *The Odyssey*

Mon 2/25: Alexander the Great

Wed 2/27: The Hellenistic Age

Fri 3/1: Quiz/discussion; **2nd study guide posted**

Week 8: **Read:** Book 10-15 *The Odyssey*

Mon 3/4: The Hellenistic Age cont.

Wed 3/6: test review

Fri 3/8: **Test #2**

Week 9: **Read:** Book 16-20 *The Odyssey*

Mon 3/11: **No Class—Spring Break**

Wed 3/13: **No Class—Spring Break**

Fri 3/15: **No Class—Spring Break**

Week 10: **Read:** Chapter 9 of AMC; Book 21-24 *The Odyssey*

Mon 3/18: The Rise of Rome

Wed 3/20: The Roman Republic

Fri 3/22: Quiz/discussion

Week 11: **Read:** Chapter 10 of AMC

*Slavery in the Roman Republic* (Blackboard)

Mon 3/25: Decline of Republic

Wed 3/27: The Principate

Fri 3/29: **No Class—Spring holiday; study guide #3 posted**

Week 12: **Read:** Chapter 11 of AMC

*Plutarch, The Training of Children* (Blackboard)

Mon 4/1: The Roman Peace

Wed 4/3: Test review

Fri 4/5: **Test #3**

Week 13: Chapter 12 of AMC

*Alaric's Sack of Rome* (Blackboard)

Mon 4/8: The Late Roman Empire  
Wed 4/10: Constantine/the Rise of Christianity  
Fri 4/12: Quiz/review

Week 14: **Read:** Chapter 13 of AMC

*Procopius, The Plague*

Mon 4/15: The Christian Empire  
Wednesday 4/17: The Late Roman World  
Friday 4/19: Quiz/discussion

Week 15: **Read:** Chapter 14 of AMC

Mon: 4/22: The End of Antiquity; **study guide #4 posted**

Wed: 4/24: The End of Antiquity

Fri: 4/26: Test review

Week 16:

Mon: 4/29: **Test #4**

Wed: 5/1 Research day

Fri: 5/3 **Research papers due to me by 5pm by email attachment only**