

HIS 351: Ancient Greece

Stephen Ruzicka (sqruzick@uncg.edu)  
MHRA 2123/Tel: 334-5488  
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF

**Required Texts** (all available at UNCG Bookstore)

Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*

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

Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Richard Lattimore

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Richard Lattimore

*Ancient Greece* covers a long period of time—roughly 2000 B.C. to A.D. 500—and is necessarily divided into several separate periods marked by distinct historical conditions. Greek history is the story of those conditions, but it is also the story of the different kinds of responses to those conditions by contemporaneous Greeks. This course follows these parallel stories. That is, we will examine the characteristic political, economic, and social conditions marking successive periods and at the same time examine the responses, meaning the attempts to make sense of and find meaning in the experienced realities of a given period. Greeks at different times discovered different forms of expression which we know by names such as myth, religions, epic, lyric poetry, science, history, drama, and philosophy. To familiarize ourselves with these forms, we will be reading a lot of Greek literature, but we want to approach it not as “literature” but as a record of experience and problem solving. Think then of two questions we will be asking as we move through successive periods of Greek history: 1) what is the situation (think of what it means to be living in this particular Greek world)? And 2) what is the response or responses (observations, reflections) that contemporaries made to the experiences of life in successive periods?

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

1/13 Introduction/Overview M 1-14; mCF 6-23

*Origins/Mycenaean Age*

1/15 Greece and the Aegean before Greeks M 14-34; CF 25-33, 48-51

1/17 Mycenaean Origins CF 34-47; M 34-38

1/20 MLK Holiday

1/22 Linear B Tablets M 38-40; Handout and website:  
<http://www.ancientscripts.com/linearb.html>

1/24 History, Myth, and Religion CF 52-55, 142-159; familiarize yourself with  
this website <http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/greek/articles.html>;

**1/27 Collapse of the Mycenaean World M 40-45; CF 56-57**

***Individual, Community, and Cosmos: Dark Age/Archaic Age***

**1/29 Beginnings of the Polis M 46-64; CF 58-65; *Iliad* Books 1-5, 9, 13-16**

**1/31 Trading and Borrowing CF 66-73; *Iliad*, Books 18-24**

**2/3 Homer 1: Old Stories, New Problems *Odyssey*, Books 1-12**

**2/5 Homer 2: Being Greek *Odyssey*, Books 13-24**

**2/7 Hesiod: Work as Order CF 74-75; Hesiod, *Works and Days*  
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hesiod/works.htm>**

**2/10 Lyric Poets: Discovering the Self**

**2/12 Physicists: Discovering Mind Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes;**

**2/14 FIRST EXAM**

**2/17 Greek Cities M 65-90; CF 77-109**

**2/19 After Aristocracy Norton, 209-212**

**2/21 Aristocracy after Aristocracy From Banquet to Symposium**

**2/24 Athens in Particular**

**2/26 Greeks and Persians**

***Classical Age: Power and Purpose***

**2/28 Persian War CF 110-115**

**3/3 Rise of Athens CF 116-125**

**3/5 Making Sense of Things: Herodotus, Hubris, and History Norton, 267-299**

**3/7 Democracy**

**3/10-14 Spring Break**

**3/17 Dealing with the New World: Art and Architecture CF 126-133**

- 3/19 Dealing with the New World: Tragedy** CF 134-137; Norton, 305-333, 359-400
- 3/21 Dealing with the New World: Comedy** Norton, 446-476
- 3/24 Dealing with the New World: Philosophy** Norton, 493-500
- 3/28 SECOND EXAM**
- 3/31 Peloponnesian War 1** CF 141
- 4/2 Thucydides' Mission**  
[http://www.greektxts.com/library/Hippocrates/On\\_Airs, Waters, And Places/eng/index.html](http://www.greektxts.com/library/Hippocrates/On_Airs,_Waters,_And_Places/eng/index.html); Norton, 334-356
- 4/4 Peloponnesian War 2**
- 4/7 Assessing the 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.**
- 4/9 Crisis of the Polis System 404-338**  
<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/historians/narrative/4thcent.html>
- 4/11 More Historians: Xenophon, Ephorus, Theopompus**
- 4/14 Finding Order: Plato**
- 4/16 Living Order: Cynics and Stoics**
- 4/18 Spring Holiday**
- 4/21 The Macedonian Conquests** CF 188-195;  
<http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/lecture9b.html>
- 4/23 Greeks in Non-Greek Worlds** CF 196-199
- 4/25 Greece and Greeks in the Roman Age** CF 200-207; Norton 595-603, 643-650
- 4/28 Christianity and Greeks** CF 208-211
- 4/29 Greeks and Christianity** Norton 833-852
- 5/5 FINAL EXAM 8-11 a.m.**

