HIS 351: Ancient Greece

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, *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 Mycenae 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](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](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
4/4  Peloponnesian War 2
4/7  Assessing the 5th 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.