

CLAS 2000 Intro to the Classics



More About the Instructor

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Continuity of Instruction. In the event of a disruption to campus services, this course will continue asynchronously in Canvas.

Catalog Description. CLAS 2000 Introduction to Classics (3) GE:HU. Civilization of classical antiquity through a survey of literature, philosophy, and art of ancient Greece and Rome.

Objectives:

- Knowledge of the main events, historical leaders, literature, art, and architecture of Greek and Roman civilization.
- Ability to situate events and leaders in their historical time and place; ability to situate literary / fictional characters in their text and cultural context.
- Understanding of the main cultural ideals of Greek and Roman civilization, and the Greek and Latin concepts behind them.
- Application of the skills of the Classicist to the interpretation of literary and historical texts (students will be introduced to close reading, interdisciplinary analysis, appreciation of historiography, and modes of composition / narration).

General Education Objectives:

- Knowledge of Classical Humanities. Students can describe the cultural ideals of Classical Athens and Rome.
- Close Reading of Classical Texts. Students can perform a close reading and contextualization of texts, or close study of artifacts of material culture for their elements related to Classical Civilization.
- Evaluation of Classical Cultures. Students can use the critical skills of the discipline of Classics to identify and evaluate analytically the values and world view of classical cultures and how they resemble and differ from our own.

Textbooks: (links to online daily readings are provided)

- *The Portable Greek Historians*. The Essence of Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius, edited by M. I. Finley (Penguin 9780140150650)
- *Great Dialogues of Plato*, trans. W. H. D. Rouse (Penguin 9780451471703)

- *The Aeneid of Virgil*, trans. Allen Mandelbaum (Random House 9780553210415)
- *Greek Tragedies I: Aeschylus – Agamemnon, Prometheus Bound; Sophocles: Oedipus the King, Antigone; Euripides: Hippolytus*. Edd. Griffith, Most, Greene, Lattimore (U. Chicago Press 9780226035314)

Assignments and Grading:

Unit quizzes available until the test	13%	Scale: A 92.50-100, A- 89.50-92.49
Test #1 over units 1-5	29%	B+ 86.50-89.49, B 82.50-86.49, B- 79.50-82.49
Test #2 over units 6-10	29%	C+ 76.50-79.49, C 72.50-76.49, C- 69.50-72.49
Test #3 over units 11-13	29%	D+ 66.50-69.49, D 62.50-66.49, D- 59.50-62.49, F 0-59.49

All assignments and course materials are in Canvas. For each unit there is 1. a reading from a textbook or online translation of an ancient text; 2. a recorded lecture: listen, study it more than once, and master the material. 3. Notes to help study for the quiz, including a glossary of terms, maps used in the lectures, and a summary of the main points. 4. A unit quiz with questions on readings and the recorded lecture. Questions will assess your knowledge of basic facts, events and the timeline, as well as interpretive information in the lecture.

You will get one attempt at each quiz, no time limit. Quizzes are available for the dates of the course **and must be taken using Lockdown browser**. (It is an actual browser you must download; navigate to Canvas within that browser. It prevents you from using any other applications while you take the quiz). On quizzes, you may use notes. Quiz questions are re-used on tests, randomized, but there are also a few new questions about each unit. Tests have a 60 min. time limit, and **the audio-video recording capability of Lockdown (Respondus) will be activated. A functioning microphone and webcam are required**. If you have a condition that makes it impossible to concentrate while being recorded, you may need to drop this course or seek advice from DSS.

The quizzes and tests can be completed as quickly or slowly as you like before the course ends. For this reason, they do not have due dates indicated, only availability dates within which they must be taken. There is a recommended schedule under the ‘Assignments’ tab, which will show the dates by which unit quizzes and tests should be completed to stay on schedule. These are not actual due dates, so you may work ahead or catch up later if you fall behind. I will send periodic reminders as well.

If the video recording of your test reveals problems, your attempt may be voided and you may be required to retake the test or face taking a 0, which could result in failure. Among the things that Respondus flags: looking away from the screen repeatedly (assumption is you are referencing notes or another electronic device), poor lighting or extraneous noises that obscure the recording; other people in the room with you. None of these things are permissible.

For information about severe weather and university closings, see [The ECU Alert page](#). East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY). Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina student. Cheating (attempting to take a test for another student), plagiarism, and falsification, will be considered a violation of [Academic Integrity](#). If you have an illness or a personal emergency, you must e-mail me in a timely fashion and explain your situation; I reserve the right to request documentation to evaluate whether your excuse was serious and unavoidable.

Syllabus:

Intro. Listen to the Introductory lecture on the scope and goals of the course.

Unit 1. It all started with Homer. Achilles, Paris, and Helen in the Trojan War. Homer, *Iliad* Bks. 1 [1-530], 3 [all], 7 [205-320, 405-463] There are 2 sets of line #s; use the ones in []

Unit 2. The Shield of Achilles and the deaths of Patroclus and Hector. Homer, *Iliad* Bks. 18 [78-138, 478-617], 22 [250-405], 23 [69-92]

Unit 3. The Greek 5th c. BC and the emergence of Athens as an imperial power. Readings from Herodotus and the Persian Wars: Portable Greek Historians. Herodotus Bk 1.8-12 (pp.32-34); 1.30-33 (pp.41-44); Bk. 7.21-56 (pp.96-99); Bk. 7.138-147 (pp.111-117); 7.173- 239 (pp.130-157); Bk. 8.35-97 pp. (171-195). Lecture on the Temple of Zeus at Olympia and the use of imperial iconography (art to deliver a cultural message) to contrast Greek (rational, democratic) civilization with Persian (irrational, tyrannical) barbarism.

Unit 4. The tragic cycle: prosperous (*olbios*); folly, madness enters (*atê*); an act of violence that offends the gods (*hybris*); divine retribution (*nemesis*). Greek Tragedies Vol. 1 Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* lines 40-257, 783-974, 1372-1611. Sophocles' *Oedipus* lines 85-150, 216-461, 707-834, 1235-1286. Lecture on Tragedy as historical allegory and the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi.

Unit 5. Age of Pericles. The glory of the Athenian Acropolis, paid for by the Athenian empire, which fell in the Peloponnesian War (Portable Greek Historians). War, language, and the fall of democracy into tyranny. Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* Bk. 1.1-22 (pp. 218-231); 1.68-86, 2.34-54, 3.26-28, 3.35-50 (pp. 251-90); 6.8-31 (pp. 301-316); and "The Melian Dialogue" Bk. 5.84-116.

Around the end of September. Test 1 over Units 1-5, taken with Respondus. (If you do a unit a week, go ahead and start Unit 6 as soon as you finish the test to stay on track)

Unit 6. Selections from Plato's *Republic* Intro Bk1.327a-331d [pp.139-44], Ring of Gyges / the two challenges Bk2.357a-369c [pp.174-87], Divided Line and Cave Bk6.506d-Bk7.520e [pp.357-74], Myth of Er Bk10.614b-621d [pp.491-501]

Unit 7. Plato's Biography of Socrates in *Phaedo* (96D-100B pp.597-601), and Aristophanes *Clouds*.

10/5-8. Fall Break

Unit 8. Cicero's 'Dream of Scipio' and the philosophical schools at Rome.

Unit 9. Lucretius excerpts. Battle between religion and philosophy.

Bk 1 pp.27-32, 58 (Venus as pleasure, Epicurus rescues man from religion).

Bk 2 pp.65-72 (motion of atoms, 'determinism' and 'the swerve').

Bk 3 pp.110-111 *anima* ('spirit, soul, life force') and *animus* (divided into *mens*, 'mind' and *animus* proper 'emotional faculty'), pp.133-135, 138-142 (therefore death is nothing to us).

Bk 5 pp. 188, 190-192 (Gods live free from care), pp.216-234 the philosopher's 'archeology' (origin of civilization).

Bk 6 pp. 274-79 (The plague at Athens).

Unit 10. Pompey and Caesar. Battle of Pharsalus, Egypt, Rome under Caesar (Solar Calendar, buildings etc). Second Triumvirate. Antony and Cleopatra. Octavian and the Battle of Actium. Plutarch's *Lives*: (read all, but skim in between) Caesar 1-15, 28-32, 39-69 and Antony 12-16, 19-22, 25-28.1, 30-32, 36, 58, 60-68, 71-87.

Around the end of October. Test 2 over Units 6-10, taken with Respondus. (If you do a unit a week, go ahead and start Unit 11 as soon as you finish the test to stay on track)

Oct. 28 withdrawal deadline.

Unit 11. Note the longer unit length: allow a couple weeks. The Epic of the West. Love, war, philosophy, and political allegory. Vergil's *Aeneid*. Read:

Bk. 1 Juno asks Aeolus for a storm; Aeneas driven to Carthage, meets Dido.

Bk. 2 At dinner, Aeneas tells the story of the Trojan Horse and the fall of Troy (standing allegorically for the Roman Republic).

Bk. 4 (Like Caesar and Antony with Cleopatra), Aeneas plays dress-up with Dido and considers staying as her king, until Jupiter warns him to leave. Dido kills herself, and Carthage goes up in flames

Bk. 6 Journey to the underworld to visit his father Anchises, the golden bough.

Bk. 8 Aeneas lands in Italy and finds war. While searching for allies, he meets Evander and hears how Hercules once battled the monster Cacus on the site that would become Rome; the shield of Aeneas and prophecy of the Battle of Actium

Bk 10.1-168, 593-738 The deaths of Pallas and Turnus, and a hidden work of art that becomes an ecphrasis of *Aeneid*: the Danaids on the belt of Pallas.

Bk 12.1049-end. Final battle of Aeneas and Turnus for Lavinia and the kingdom

Unit 12. Restoration of the Republic (27BC), *Pax Romana*, and the Urban Design of the *caput mundi* (head / capital of the world; imperial iconography): Temple of Apollo Palatinus, Forum Augustum, Pantheon and Campus Martius. Reading: Augustus' *Res Gestae*

Unit 13. Rome under Nero, the tyrant on stage. Seneca, a philosopher in politics. Reading: Seneca *Thyestes*

Around the first week of December. Test 3 over Units 11-13, taken with Respondus.