

## CLAS 2220. Great Works of Ancient Literature I: Greece

East Carolina University  
Tomorrow starts here.



<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/>

Prof. John Stevens  
Classical Studies, Dept. Foreign Languages & Literatures  
Hours: TTTh 8:30-9:30, 1:45-3:15 & appt (<https://ecu.webex.com/meet/stevensj>)

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### Course Objectives:

- Knowledge of the main events, historical leaders, literature, art, and architecture of Greek 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 civilization, and the Greek 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:

- HU 1: Distinguish artistic, literary, philosophical, or religious creations from other types of work and describe how they address enduring human concerns and the human condition.
- HU 2: Apply discipline-specific criteria and evaluate the significance of specific literary, artistic, philosophical or religious works to enduring human concerns and the human condition.
- HU 3: Apply discipline-specific knowledge in the humanities to contrast their understanding with that of others of the significance of specific artistic, literary, philosophical or religious works to enduring human concerns and the human condition.

### Discipline-Specific Humanities Student Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of Classical Humanities. Students can describe the cultural ideals of Classical Athens found in Classical texts or specimens of material culture (HU1).
- Apply the skills of the Classicist (linguistic, textual or cultural analysis, close reading etc.) to evaluate the enduring significance of a Classical text or specimen of material culture (HU2).
- Apply knowledge of the Classics to argue for or evaluate a specific interpretation of a Classical text or specimen of material culture regarding enduring human concerns and the human condition (HU3).

### Textbooks:

- Lattimore, Richmond (trans.), Greek Lyrics 9780226469447 (U. Chicago 1960<sup>2</sup>)
- Plato, *Great Dialogues* 9780451530851 (Penguin 2008)

### Links:

- Concise History of Ancient Greece: <http://www.ancient-greece.org/history/classical.html>
- Timeline: <http://www.ancient-greece.org/resources/timeline.html>
- Map of Persian Wars (Marathon 490; Thermopylae-Salamis-Plataea 480-79): <http://goo.gl/F4mHz3>
- Map of the Peloponnesian War (431-21; 415-404): <http://goo.gl/2BbNV2>
- Thucydides Outline (Josh Sosin): <https://people.duke.edu/~jds15/clst-283/thuc.outline.html>

### Grading:

Class discussion	15%	Scale: A 93-100, A- 90-92
Midterm exam	30%	B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82
Final exam	30%	C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72
Reading Questions	25%	D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62, F 0-59

15% of the course grade will be based on attendance, doing the assigned reading, and contributions to class discussion. There will be an assignment due the class after completion of each of the major texts for you to list three essay questions that you would ask if you were teaching the text yourself, including reference to a passage or passages in each question. It should be a detailed enough multi-sentence question that the three of them come to nearly a page of text. That is, I expect a typed full page submission. Each count 5%, total 25%. It's a chance for you to organize your notes, re-read and think back on the text, and indicate what you think are the most salient questions about interesting passages in the particular work(s) of literature. It will also help you to get ready for the midterm and final (30% each), which will feature some identification of concepts (matching), some passage identification by author, title, and speaker (you must spell the names of the authors, texts, and speakers correctly), some short answer, and an essay. I will give you the essay topics in advance, so you can come prepared to answer one. For the class discussion grade, you will have to read and reflect on each day's assignment. Those who receive an A will have good questions, advance the discussion, and refer to relevant passages in the text. Attendance alone will not guarantee a passing grade for this section; it is primarily based on your oral contributions to the discussion. If you are absent an unreasonable amount, however, (more than 4 or 5 classes), you can expect a poor grade in class discussion. It will also have the effect of making you unprepared for the midterm and final. To succeed in this class, read, attend, talk, and take notes. If you do, I am confident ancient Greek Literature will be one of the most interesting classes you take at ECU.

For information about severe weather and university closings, see <http://www.ecu.edu/alert/>. 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 the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY). Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina student. Cheating, plagiarism (claiming the work of another as your own, including not just copied text, but even ideas rephrased in your own voice from online sources, books, and articles **without attribution**), falsification, will be considered a violation of Academic Integrity (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/upload/academic-integrity-manual.pdf>). If you must be absent for a university event, fall ill or become subject to quarantine, or find yourself dealing with a personal crisis, please tell me in a timely fashion so we can make plans about how to prevent you from falling into academic difficulty.

## Assignments:

- 8/23 Introduction
- 8/25 Homer, *Odyssey* (725-700BC; <http://bit.ly/2THcA7y>), Books 13, 16
- 8/30 Homer, *Odyssey* Books 19, 20
- 9/1 Homer, *Odyssey* Books 22-24
- 9/6 Greek Lyric Poetry (<https://bit.ly/3QeilX7>). Archilochus 1-6 (pp.1-2); Semonides 1 (pp. 8-11); Solon 2-4 (pp. 20-22); Sappho 1-4 (pp.38-41); Alcaeus 1-5 (pp.42-44); Pindar 12-15 (pp.62-63). **Questions due on Homer's *Odyssey*.**
- 9/8 Herodotus (<https://bit.ly/3Qbm88q>) Book 1 ¶1-56.
- 9/13 Herodotus, Book 7 ¶10-60 (<https://bit.ly/3BOKKV7>). Book 8.113-15 (<https://bit.ly/3Qg0lwr>)
- 9/15 Aeschylus, *Seven Against Thebes* (467BC; <https://bit.ly/3RZhsnb>) **Questions due on Herodotus' *Histories*.**
- 9/20 Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (458BC; <https://bit.ly/3dnSor3>)
- 9/22 Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* (456BC; <https://bit.ly/3SfwHbl>).
- 9/27 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 1.1-23, 68-86 (events down to 432 BC; <https://bit.ly/3PawmVh>). **Questions due on the tragedies of Aeschylus.**
- 9/29 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 2.35-65 (431-29 BC)
- 10/4 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*: 3.37-41 (427 BC; <https://bit.ly/3bGywhG>); 5.85-116; 6.9-27, 53, 89-92 (416-15 BC; <https://bit.ly/3zJQ0BZ>).
- 10/6 **Midterm Exam**
- 10/11 **No Class. Fall Break.**
- 10/13 Athens, the major temples.
- 10/18 Aristophanes' *Clouds* (423 BC; revised 416 BC; <https://bit.ly/3xDca3O>)
- 10/20 Aristophanes, *Frogs* (404 BC; <https://bit.ly/3xF247b>)
- 10/25 Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen* (*Women in Parliament*; <https://bit.ly/3Paswvg>).
- 10/27 Plato, *Symposium* (c. 385-80 BC). Fictional time set in 416 BC. **Questions due on the comedies of Aristophanes.**
- 11/1 Plato, *Symposium*, 2nd half
- 11/3 Plato, *Republic* (c. 380 BC). First half of books 2 and 5. Fictional time spans the Peloponnesian War, set at the home of Polemarchus, whose family wealth came from selling arms in the war.
- 11/8 Plato, *Republic* 7
- 11/10 Plato, *Republic* 10
- 11/15 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus* (*Cyropaedia*, about Cyrus the Great 580-530 BC, probably reacting to Plato's *Republic*, and thus written sometime in the 370s BC), Book 1 (<https://bit.ly/3PifDQc>). **Questions due on Plato's *Republic*.**
- 11/17 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Books 2-3
- 11/22 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Books 4-5 (<https://bit.ly/3JFRvFO>)
- 11/24 **Thanksgiving break**
- 11/29 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Book 6
- 12/1 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Books 7-8
- 12/7 8-10:30am. **Final Exam**