

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: TTh 10-11, 12:30-2 & by Webex (<https://ecu.webex.com/meet/stevensj>)

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Continuity of instruction: This is a face-to-face class meeting in Brewster C206. In the event of a disruption in campus services, instruction will transition to web synchronous by WebEx in Canvas.

Catalog Description: Ancient Greek literature from time of Homer to Alexander the Great. Emphasis on cultural ideals expressed in epic and lyric poetry, drama, philosophy, oratory, and history.

Course Objectives:

- Knowledge of the main events, leaders, literature, history and philosophy of Greek civilization.
- Ability to situate literary / fictional characters in their text and historical context.
- Understanding of the main cultural ideals of Greek civilization.
- 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: All texts are provided in Canvas; none required for purchase.

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 \(Josh Sosin\)](#)

Grading:

Class discussion	20%	Scale: A 92.50-100, A- 89.50-92.49
Reading Quizzes, 1% each	20%	B+ 86.50-89.49, B 82.50-86.49, B- 79.50-82.49
Take-home Midterm 1	20%	C+ 76.50-79.49, C 72.50-76.49, C- 69.50-72.49
Take-home Midterm 2	20%	D+ 66.50-69.49, D 62.50-66.49, D- 59.50-62.49
Take-home Final	20%	F 0-59.49

20% of the course grade will be based on attendance and contributions to class discussion on the assigned reading. 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.

There will be daily reading quizzes of 3 questions that count 1% each toward your grade, so missing a class is like deducting a point from your final grade, except that only the top 20 out of 25 will count. So you can miss up to 5 or drop the five lowest quiz scores, though absence will also affect your discussion grade. Students in honors section .299 will complete a research project in consultation with the instructor in place of the reading quiz requirement.

There will be 3 take-home exams (two midterms and a final). The exams will feature some passage identification by author, title, and speaker (spelling is important), some identification of concepts (matching), short answer, and a writing prompt based on class discussion. I will give you the essay topics in advance, so you can organize your notes.

If you miss a class, you will be able to listen to the recording in WebEx that is primarily for our online students. (Permission is required for face-to-face students to attend one or more days by WebEx for reasons such as illness, family or personal emergencies, or university travel). If you are absent an unreasonable amount (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 midterms 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, as from AI, 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:

- 8/26 Introduction
- 8/28 Homer, *Odyssey* (725-700BC), Books 13, 16 most
- 9/2 Homer, *Odyssey* Books 19 all, 20-21 selections
- 9/4 Homer, *Odyssey* Books 22-24 selections
- 9/9 Greek Lyric Poetry, trans. Lattimore. Archilochus fr. 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).
- 9/11 Greek Lyric Poetry, trans. Lattimore. Simonides #4-6, 9, 531; Pindar # 5, 8-9, 12-15. Philosophical fragments of Heraclitus.
- 9/16 Herodotus' Lydian *logos* on Persian tyranny. Bk1 §1-13, 23-56, 86-91.
- 9/18 Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers* (458BC). [1-585, 886-end] on the *lex talionis*, the "law of vengeance".
- 9/23 Aeschylus, *Eumenides* (458BC). [1-793, 891-982]
- 9/25 **No class. Take-home Midterm #1, due 9/28.**
- 9/30 Plutarch, *Life of Pericles*, selections.
- 10/2 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*: 2.34-65.
- 10/7 Aristophanes' *Acharnians* (427 BC) 1-281, 495-571, 719-962, 1090-1141, 1183-1234
- 10/9 Plutarch, *Life of Alcibiades*, selections, with Thucydides *Peloponnesian War* 6.16-18.
- 10/14 **No Class. Fall Break.**
- 10/16 Aristophanes, *Frogs* (404 BC) 1-454, 755-800, 1009-92, 1365-1533
- 10/21 Plato, *Republic* on the banishment of the poets, excerpts bks 2, 3, 10
- 10/23 Plato, *Apology* (c. 390 BC) on the trial of Socrates in 399 BC.
- 10/28 Xenophon, *Memorabilia* ('Recollections of Socrates'), selections.
- 10/30 Plato, Principal Doctrines (Tripartition, Dialectic and Doctrine of Forms, Body-Soul-Death-Afterlife)
- 11/4 **Take-home Midterm #2 due.** Plato, *Timaeus* (on the Craftsman of the Universe). 1, 28-43.
- 11/6 Xenophon, *Anabasis*, the "Up-Country March" (Greek mercenaries join a civil war in Persia, beginning 401 BC), selections Books 1-4
- 11/11 Xenophon, *Oeconomicus*, on the education of a wife and governing a home and land.
- 11/13 Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen* (*Women Take over the Legislature* ~387 BC).
- 11/18 Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus* (*Cyropaedia*, about Cyrus the Great 580-530 BC, probably reacting to Plato's *Republic*, and perhaps written in stages, like *Republic* 380s-70s BC), selections Books 1, 5, 7-8 (<https://bit.ly/3PifDQc>).
- 11/20 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* selections Bks 1-4, 8, 10.
- 11/25 Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* (336-323 BC) selections, and Cleanthes' 'Hymn to Zeus' (Stoicism, 260s BC).
- 11/27 **Thanksgiving**
- 12/2 Works from Hellenistic Alexandria under Ptolemy Philadelphus (283-246 BC): Theocritus, *Idylls* 1, 6, 11
- 12/4 Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica* book 3 and start of 4.
- 12/15 **Take-home final exam due.**

