

CLAS 3400. The Ancient City (GE:HU)



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

Prof. John Stevens
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Hours: TTh 10-11, 1:45-3:15, and <https://ecu.webex.com/meet/stevensj>

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Asynchronous online through Canvas, with Panopto video lectures and tests using Respondus monitor

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.

Course-Specific Humanities Student Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of Classical Humanities. Students can describe the cultural ideals of Classical civilizations found in ancient 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).

Additional Course Outcomes:

- Knowledge of the times, places, people, events, written works, topography and history associated with classical cities such as Athens, Alexandria, Syracuse, and Rome.
- Situate the ideas of classical civilizations in their historical and topographical contexts.
- Knowledge of the literary and philosophical symbols that shape urban design and imperial iconography, such as the city at war and the city at peace, the divine city, the pastoral city etc.

Textbooks:

- All readings available in Canvas. No textbooks are required for purchase in this course.

Assignments and Grading:

14 Unit quizzes, 1% each	14%	Scale: A 92.50-100, A- 89.50-92.49
Test 1 (1-4), Test 2 (5-8), 22% each	44%	B+ 86.50-89.49, B 82.50-86.49, B- 79.50-82.49
Test 3 (9-11), Test 4 (12-14) 21% each	42%	C+ 76.50-79.49, C 72.50-76.49, C- 69.50-72.49
		D+ 66.50-69.49, D 62.50-66.49, D- 59.50-62.49, F 0-59.49

Assignments and course materials are in Canvas. For each unit there are 1. Readings consisting of excerpted passages from original ancient sources in translation; 2. a recorded lecture with captions: listen, study it more than once, and master the material. 3. Unit quiz which may be taken only once using **Lockdown Browser**, but open book with no time limit.

The four tests have a 60 min. time limit, and must be completed using Lockdown browser **and video recording by Respondus monitor**. Quizzes and tests are available for the entire semester and may be completed at your own pace, but under the assignments tab there is a recommended schedule. If you are significantly behind that schedule, I will raised a 'concerned' flag in Starfish. Questions will assess your knowledge of information in the readings, as well as interpretive perspective in the lectures. Tests are 2/3 questions reused from quizzes, 1/3 new questions.

If the video recording of your test reveals problems, your attempt may be voided and you may be required to retake the test or receive a 0. Among the things that Respondus flags: looking away from the screen repeatedly (the assumption is that you are referencing notes or another electronic device), face not visible on screen, poor lighting or extraneous noises that obscure the recording; other people in the room with you. None of these things are permissible. Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina student. Cheating, plagiarism (claiming the work of another as your own), falsification of identity, or helping others do these things are violations of academic integrity (<https://www2.ecu.edu/facultysenate/currentfacultymanual/part6section2.pdf>).

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). If you must be absent for a university event, fall ill, must 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.

Unit Topics:

Unit1 Intro on the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and Homer's city as a work of art. Readings on Atlantis from Plato's *Timaeus* and *Critias*, and the shield of Achilles, *Iliad* 18.

Unit2 Athenian Acropolis. Readings from Pausanias 1.14.6, 1.23.7-1.24, 1.26.5-1.27.2, Pericles' 'Funeral Oration'

Unit3 Athenian Agora, Areopagus, Institutions of Government. Readings excerpted from Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology* and *Phaedo*, Pausanias 1.15, Plutarch's *Life of Theseus*.

Unit4 Piraeus and the urban grid of Hippodamus of Miletus. Readings from Pausanias 1.1.2-1.2.3, Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes' *Birds*, and sources for Hippodamus.

Test 1 over units 1-4.

Unit5 The City in Speech, Socrates' pastoral city, and the 'beautiful city'. Readings from Plato's *Republic* bks 1,2,8; Babylon as the virtuous city of Cyrus the Great, King of Persia, from Xenophon's *Cyropaedia* bks 1.1-3, 7.5-8.1.

Unit6 The funeral of Alexander the Great and the founding of Alexandria as the eternal city of the living and the dead. Selections from Plutarch's *Life of Alexander*, *On Isis and Osiris*, and the *Alexander Romance*.

Unit7 Ptolemaic Alexandria: The Platonic City. Plan of Dinocrates of Rhodes, the Library, Lighthouse, the central 'plain' (Broadway), and curriculum. Readings from Strabo's *Geography* bk17, Plato *Republic* bks 7, 10, and *Timaeus*, Theocritus' *Idyll* 1, and sources for Dinocrates.

Unit 8 Syracuse and Archimedes. Hiero the tyrant, Sicilian Expedition, The philosopher king at Syracuse, and the genius of Archimedes. Readings from Diogenes Laertius' *Life of Plato*, Plato's *Letter VII*, and Plutarch's *Life of Marcellus* on Archimedes and the fall of Syracuse.

Test 2 over units 5-8.

Unit9 Cicero's consensus of all good people, and the Stoic community of gods and the wise. Readings from *Against Catiline* IV and *De re publica*. Office and Institutions of Roman Government, Apotheosis of Caesar, Forum Julium, Forum Romanum, Curia, Rostra, and Temple of the Divine Julius.

Unit10 The Campus Martius in Rome as imitation of Alexandria. Pantheon, Ara Pacis (altar of peace), Saepia Julia (voting enclosure), Horologium (sundial / solar calendar), Stagnum (reflecting pool), Mausoleum of Augustus. Readings from Plato, *Rep.* 7 (cave), Vergil, *Aeneid* bks 1-2, 4 *Eclogue* 1.

Unit11 Augustan Rome: the restoration of the Republic, fate, and the pious city. Forum Augustum, Temple of Apollo on the Palatine, Hut of Romulus, Temple of the Magna Mater. Readings from Vitruvius, *De architectura*, Augustus' *Res Gestae*, Vergil *Aeneid* bks 1,3,6,8,10,12 Horace, *Odes* 3.1-6.

Test 3 over units 9-11.

Unit12 The Roman triumph. The city as journey to the divine. Forum Boarium, Circus Maximus, triumphal arches, The Sacred Way, Capitolium. Readings from Cicero's 'Dream of Scipio', Vergil's *Aeneid* Bk 8.

Unit13 Nero's Golden House: the city as ecphrasis (city within a city / living in a work of art / in a divine pastoral city like a god). Source readings on the fire of 64AD, the life of Nero, Flavian Rome and beyond: the Colosseum, Imperial palaces, fora, Roman baths.

Unit14 The tradition of the ancient city: Hadrian's city-building in the east, Constantinople, the Roman fort and the medieval city, the catacombs of Rome, Rome as the eternal city, the spiritual city of the heavenly Jerusalem, and modern landscapes and capitals. Readings from the Life of Hadrian, Augustine's *City of God*, the *Apocalypse (Revelations)*, Procopius' account of Hagia Sophia, medieval poems about Charlemagne.

Test 4 over units 12-14