CLAS 2000 Intro to the Classics

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Hours: T-Th 10-11, 1:45-3:15 & appt (https://ecu.webex.com/meet/stevensj) 252.328.6056

Course 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 9780451530851)
- 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 9780226035284)
Assignments and Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Scale: A 92.50-100, A- 89.50-92.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test #1 over units 1-5</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>B+ 86.50-89.49, B 82.50-86.49, B- 79.50-82.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test #2 over units 6-10</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>C+ 76.50-79.49, C 72.50-76.49, C- 69.50-72.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test #3 over units 11-13</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>D+ 66.50-69.49, D 62.50-66.49, D- 59.50-62.49, F 0-59.49</td>
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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. 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 must be completed using BOTH Lockdown browser and Respondus monitor. 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, and if you are significantly behind that schedule, I will send you periodic reminders that you are behind.

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 [http://www.ecu.edu/alert/](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 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: [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/upload/academic-integrity-manual.pdf](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/upload/academic-integrity-manual.pdf). 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 [] ([http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad_title.html](http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad_title.html))


**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-
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 (https://bit.ly/3zDRyNQ).

Around the end of September. Test 1 over Units 1-5, taken with Respondus Monitor. (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 7. Plato’s Biography of Socrates in Phaedo (96D-100B pp.597-601), and Aristophanes Clouds (http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Clouds.htm)

10/5-8. Fall Break


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).


Around the end of October. Test 2 over Units 6-10, taken with Respondus Monitor. (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 13.** Rome under Nero, the tyrant on stage. Seneca, a philosopher in politics. Reading: Seneca *Thyestes* ([https://goo.gl/WTwDVM](https://goo.gl/WTwDVM))

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