

CS 3410E: GREEK HISTORY

Instructor: Dr. Bernd Steinbock
Course Location: Somerville House 2355
Course Times: M W F 9:30-10:30 a.m.
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Office Hours: W 2-3 pm or by appointment
Course Website: owl.uwo.ca
Teaching Assistant: TBA

This course is offered by the Department of Classical Studies but counts as a principal course towards the Honors Specialization in History.



Chigi Vase, c. 620 BC; early evidence for hoplite warfare

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a survey of the history of Greece. Lectures cover the development of Greek civilization from the Bronze Age to the death of Cleopatra. By analyzing the social and political structures in Greece we will explore the reasons for the tremendous success of this civilization. Special emphasis will be given to interpreting and understanding the ancient source material upon which modern interpretations are based.

In the Bronze Age Greece saw the development of the complex Minoan and Mycenaean palace societies which after a cataclysm gave way to simpler forms of social organization in the Greek 'Dark Age.' During the 8th century renaissance Greece experienced a remarkable recovery which led to the formation of the polis, a form of the self-governing local community, which stands at the beginning of Western civilization. Homer's epics provide a fascinating glimpse into the life and social values of this important transitional period.

The crisis of the Archaic Period brought about the rise of tyrants, overseas colonisation, Spartan militarism, and ultimately Athenian democracy. At the beginning of the 5th century, Greece emerged victorious from a conflict with its powerful eastern neighbour, the Persian Empire. In the ensuing Classical Age, Greece saw the completion of Athenian democracy, but also the formation of Athenian naval imperialism which led to the brutal internecine struggle with Sparta and its allies in the Peloponnesian War. The literary genre of historiography originated in this volatile century and found in Herodotus and Thucydides two of its most capable exponents, while inscriptional evidence provides invaluable insights into the private and political life of this period.

Athens', Sparta's, and Thebes' relentless strife for hegemony continued during the first half of the fourth century. It left Greece exhausted and an easy prey for the rising power of Macedonia under its powerful king Philip II. In an extraordinary tour de force, his son Alexander conquered the Persian Empire and spread Greek culture all over the Ancient Near East. Alexander's premature death gave rise to an unprecedented power-struggle among his generals, which resulted in the formation of several Hellenistic dynasties. In the ensuing centuries these kingdoms came into increased contact with Rome and fell, one by one, under its sway.

3 lecture hours, 1.0 course

ANTIREQUISITES:

CS3400E or the former CS 275E.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will be familiar with important events in Greek history and will have gained a broad understanding of the development and character of Greek civilization. They will have learned key concepts (palace society, polis, Athenian democracy, etc.) and theoretical models, appropriate for the study of the social and political history of ancient Greece. They will be able to assess and comment critically upon the original source material in translation and test modern interpretations against the ancient evidence. In so doing, they will develop an understanding of the limits of our knowledge of the ancient world and will come to appreciate the practice of History as an ongoing dialogue between past and present, where current models of interpretation are constantly being questioned, revised and refined, and tested against the available evidence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES / TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

Successful students will have advanced their written communication skills in the clear and organized presentation of a scholarly argument in the form of a research paper, observing the standards and format of our discipline. In so doing, they will have developed the ability to gather, review and evaluate the relevant primary sources and pertinent scholarly literature and to incorporate both into their own lines of argument. Successful students will have improved their inter-personal skills by working co-operatively in small groups for discussion and analysis of source materials and by participating in class discussions.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Demand, Nancy, *A History of Ancient Greece In Its Mediterranean Context* (**Third** Edition) (Sloan Pub.: Cornwall-on-Hudson, 2013): (ISBN: 1597380458)

Kagan, Donald and Viggiano, Gregory F.: *Problems in the History of Ancient Greece. Sources and Interpretation* (Prentice Hall: New York 2010) (ISBN: 0136140459)

Herodotus, *The Histories* (tr. De Sélincourt), Penguin (ISBN: 0140449086)

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (tr. Warner), Penguin (ISBN: 0140440399)

EVALUATION:

Pop Quizzes:	10%
Participation:	5%
Seminar:	
Source Analysis (2-3 pg.):	5%
Presentation & Discussion:	10%
Seminar Report (6-8 pg.):	15%
Research Paper (6-8 pg.)	15%
In-Class Test (Nov. 16):	15%
Final Exam (April):	25%

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EVALUATION:

1. Pop Quizzes: 10%
There will be a number of short pop quizzes on the reading assignments of the respective week. They will usually be held Fridays and contain five multiple choice questions. There will be no make-up quizzes.
2. Participation: 5%
Class sessions will comprise both lectures and seminars. Seminars are discussion sessions, led by individual students, which focus on particular historical problems and the appropriate historical methodology. **Every student** will be expected to have completed the appropriate reading and to **participate fully** in class discussion, particularly during seminar sessions.
3. Seminar:
Throughout the year we will hold several seminar sessions, based on Kagan & Viggiano's *Problems in the History of Ancient Greece*. **Each student** will sign up for **one** of these seminar sessions and complete the following assignments:

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- a) write a 2-3 page **Source Analysis** (ca. 500-800 words) of one of the **primary sources** under discussion (see the Source Analysis handout). This assignment is worth 5% and is **due on the day of the presentation** by class time.
- b) deliver a 10-15 minute **oral presentation** and serve as an **expert for** the ensuing **class discussion** (10% of final grade). The oral presentation should comprise both a short summary and a critical assessment of one of the “Opinions of Modern Scholars.” For the successful completion of this task it is indispensable that students **read and analyse ALL primary sources and opinions of modern scholars** in Kagan & Viggiano, pertaining to the historical problem under discussion.
- c) write a **6-8 page seminar report** (ca. 2100-2500 words) on the historical problem under discussion (15% of final grade). The seminar report should take into account both the primary and secondary sources in Kagan & Viggiano as well as the results of our class discussion. It must be submitted **no later than two weeks** after the seminar session. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day (including weekends). Further details will be forthcoming.

4. In-Class Exam: 15% [NOVEMBER 16]

In the in-class exam students will have to identify key terms (concepts/names/places/dates), locate places on a map, and write a historical commentary on some key passages in our ancient sources. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of the assigned texts as well as of key concepts learned in the classroom.

NOTE: There is no Christmas Exam.

5. Research Paper: 15% [DUE DECEMBER 5 OR APRIL 10]

Every student will write one **6-8 page research paper** (ca. 2100-2500 words) on one of the topics given by the instructor or (under certain conditions) on a topic of their own choice. Those who sign up for a seminar session in the Fall term will be expected to write a research paper in the Winter term and vice versa. This will spread the workload somewhat over the year and provide the students with two different areas of concentration. **Research papers undertaken in the Fall term are due on December 5, 2012**, by class time. **Papers for the Winter term are due on April 10, 2013**, by class time. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day (including weekends). More than one essay due on the same day is not a valid reason for an extension. See the research paper guidelines for more details.

6. Final Exam (Cumulative): 25% [EXAM PERIOD IN APRIL]

In the (cumulative) final exam students will have to identify key terms, locate places on a map, comment on the significance of some key passages in our ancient sources and write a short essay on one of several pre-circulated essay topics. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of the assigned texts as well as of key concepts learned in the classroom.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. If you miss an exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, **you must contact the instructor within 48 hours**. If you do not contact me, the grade of F will stand.
2. To apply for academic accommodation **due to illness** you **MUST** contact the **DEAN's** office of your home faculty. Make-up exams on medical grounds **CANNOT** be granted by the instructor (see the new UWO Policy on Accommodation below).
3. Make-up exams **due to personal crises** will only be granted, if appropriate written documentation is provided. The make-up test will be scheduled as soon as possible after the missed test, usually within one day.
4. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for material they have missed. Students are encouraged to form study groups in order to assist each other in preparing for tests and for discussion of assigned readings.
5. There is no extra credit in this course; there will be no re-weighting of the course components.

CLASS COMMUNICATION:

Class will be notified of any class cancellations, room changes and other special announcements via the course website on OWL.

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NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

PLAGIARISM:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Students should be aware that the instructor may use plagiarism-checking software for written assignments. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

UWO POLICY ON ACCOMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.] Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.**

UWO ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/students/index.htm>

SYLLABUS: for a detailed syllabus visit the course website at: <http://owl.uwo.ca>