

## ANCIENT GREECE

ANCH 101-910

Max Dietrich

MWF 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Summer Session 1 (May 23 - June 29, 2022)

Location: Online via Zoom

### **Contacts and Availability:**

Max Dietrich

Email: [mdietr@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:mdietr@sas.upenn.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Zoom (see Canvas for link)

I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours of contact on weekdays.

### **Course Description**

Whether through mythology, poetry, tragedy and comedy, historiography, philosophy, art, architecture, or political theory, the ancient Greeks have long influenced the identities and ideals of succeeding cultures down to the present day. In order to better understand our own recent and contemporary history, then, it is necessary to understand the Greeks and their history. In this class, we will survey a large chronological range, starting from the earliest Greek states and ending with the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE, while spending significant time on the 5<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE. Throughout this course, we will learn how to bring very different types of evidence into dialogue with one another, to critically analyze their historical content, and to synthesize them into a coherent and persuasive narrative about the past. We will read and discuss canonical ancient texts of varying genres, such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Euripides's *Bacchae*, Aristophanes's *Lysistrata*, and Plato's *Apology*. Such texts will be placed alongside and in conversation with archaeological evidence and modern scholarly literature. Our main goal is to use the ancient sources to examine various other themes, including the rise of democracy, the emergence of cultural features (such as Greek architecture, theater and philosophy), the reasons why the Greeks continuously went to war, their religious beliefs, and how they communicated with their gods. While doing this, we will also reflect on how our understanding of Greek history is inflected by our own worldviews and the context of modernity.

## Course Objectives

In this class, students will:

- Obtain an introductory understanding of ancient Greek history and culture from prehistory to the time of Alexander of Macedon
- Obtain an introductory understanding of the connections between Greek and later history
- Develop analytical and critical approaches to working with historical sources, both literary and material
- Develop transferable skills in oral presentation and research gathering

## Texts

- **[Optional]** McInerney, Jeremy. *Ancient Greece: a New history*. New York: Thames and Hudson. 2018.
- **Additional reading materials will be provided by the instructor and will be available on Canvas**

## Course Policies

*Attendance:* Since this summer course will cover a large amount of material within a very short period of time, attendance and participation will be critical to your success. You will be expected to be in the Zoom meeting room for the duration of each class period. For each unexcused absence, you will lose 1% of your overall grade. Further, you will receive a failing grade if you miss more than three sessions. Tardiness of up to 45 minutes will be considered an absence. Exceptions will be made if you have a valid emergency. With respect to participation, you are expected to complete the day's assigned readings and to contribute to class discussions. Active participation – such as asking questions, making informed statements about topics under discussion, connecting and comparing texts, etc. – will be noted and used as a basis for evaluation.

*Academic honesty and plagiarism:* All students are expected to abide by Penn's Code of Academic Integrity (available at <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>). Incidents of cheating and plagiarism, in particular, may be penalized with grade deductions, failure of the

class, and/or referral to the Office of Student Conduct at the instructor's discretion. If you need help with correctly attributing other people's work, you are always welcome to contact me for advice.

*Late work:* Students are expected to submit work on time. If there is some reason that you might be unable to submit work in a timely fashion, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Unexcused late work will be penalized.

## University Services

**Penn Libraries:** Students can access all online resources available at the University of Pennsylvania by using the website [www.library.upenn.edu/](http://www.library.upenn.edu/) and logging in with their PennKey and password. *Students wishing to visit the Library in person and borrow books will need to get a PennID card first.*

**Student Disability Services (SDS):** Although the self-identification process is confidential and completely voluntary, it is required for those requesting accommodation. Student Disability Services (SDS) can be reached by phone at 215.573.9235, by TDD at 215.746.6320 or online at <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/contact.php>.

**Add/Drop Period:** Students may drop a class before the end of the first two weeks of an accelerated, eight-week session by using Penn InTouch. Please see the LPS Academic Calendar for relevant dates and links (<https://lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu/student-resources/academic-calendar>). Failure to attend/participate in a course does not automatically result in being dropped from the course. Courses that are dropped will no longer appear on a student's transcript. <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/lps-online/form/course-withdrawal>

**Withdrawing from a course:** Students may withdraw from a course through the fourth week of the accelerated, eight-week session by meeting with an advisor and completing a form with the permission of the instructor.

**Online Learning Team:** There is 24/7 technical support available for your course. If you encounter technical difficulties and need immediate assistance, please call 1-833-283-2987. You can access our Knowledge Base- Penn LPS Online Helpdesk:

(<https://sas-lps.freshdesk.com/support/home>)

- to try troubleshooting on your own or live chat with a technical support staff member. In addition, you can reach out to us via email at [online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu) and we will respond to you within 24 hours.

## **Grading and Assignments**

Your grade in this course will be determined by a combination of five factors:

### **1. Map Exercise: 5%**

This exercise will test your ability to identify ancient locations and sites on a map. You will be provided with a blank map of ancient Greece and asked to label the map with the provided locations. The exercise will take place in the form of a Canvas quiz. This will be due on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### **2. Quizzes: 30% (4 total)**

The quizzes are focused on developing and assessing your analytical skills, as well as content knowledge (geography, key terms and concepts, historical persons and events). **The best three of the four quizzes, worth 10% each, will count toward your final grade.** The quizzes will be taken during class and will be due on **May 27<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, and June 17<sup>th</sup>**. The quizzes will ask you to define terms you will have encountered in the course and analyze primary sources that will be familiar in some way.

### **2. Participation: 10%**

Attendance, participation in discussions, and class preparation are crucial for your overall success in this course. Your participation score will be evaluated according to your daily completion of reading assignments and contribution to class discussion. See 'Course Policies' above for further details.

**3. Discussion Leader: 20%**

**Students will be expected to act as discussion leader twice during the semester.** Presentation dates will be chosen before the second class session using GoogleDocs, so you will have plenty of time to prepare. **Each presentation will focus on one primary or secondary source from that class session's reading, and each student will be expected to present on one primary source and one secondary source during the semester.** This exercise will allow you to practice your public speaking skills in a supportive context and to demonstrate your ability to explain, assess, and analyze historical arguments. These presentations will also prepare you for your final project, the annotated bibliography.

**4. Museum Exercise: 5%**

A component of your participation will be a virtual visit to the Penn Museum's Greek and Middle East Galleries. Upon completion of this visit, you will be asked to write a 1-2 page analysis on an object's historical context and its potential utility as a source for Greek history.

**5. Final Project – Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: 30%**

The final project will be an abstract (~500 words) and an annotated bibliography that you should prepare over the course of the semester. You should identify a topic or source you wish to explore over the course of the semester and develop an annotated bibliography that discusses the primary and secondary sources that you would use to develop your research. Throughout the semester (after Weeks 2 and 4), you will submit parts of the bibliography so that I can provide feedback and help develop your research.

**Schedule and Readings**

\*Dates, topics, and readings may change at the instructor's discretion\*

**Week 1: Aegean Prehistory and the Age of Heroes**

*(Optional) Textbook Reading for the Week:* McInerney Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch. 2

**Monday, May 23 - Intro: Why Study the Greeks?**

- **Topics covered:** Ancient Greece and modernity, Greek geography, Stone Age Greece, Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece

- **Reading:** none required; *Iliad* 1-2 suggested

**Wednesday, May 25 – Heroes, Rituals, Monsters, and the Trojan War**

- **Topics covered:** Mycenae, Pylos, Delos, The Trojan War, Heroic Values, Lefkandi, Aegean trade networks, Greek colonization
- **Reading:** selections from Homer, *Iliad* 18 and 24; *Odyssey* 3 and 4

**Friday, May 27 – The “Dark” Ages and the 8<sup>th</sup> Century “Renaissance”: Understanding and Dismantling Historical Narratives**

- **Quiz #1**
- **Topics covered:** Historical Interpretation and Narrative, the Homeric Question, Cyrene, Everyday Life
- **Reading:** Homer, *Odyssey* 9 and 10; selections from Hesiod, *Works and Days*

**Week 2: Archaic Greece**

(Optional) *Textbook Reading for the Week:* McInerney Ch. 3, Ch. 4, Ch. 5

**Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day: No class**

**\*Tuesday, May 31 – Last day to drop/add courses\***

**Wednesday, June 1 – Violence and the *Polis*: Sparta and the Archaic Tyrants**

- **Topics Covered:** Political and Social Violence in the Greek World, Spartan Culture and Society, Ethnic Slavery, Cultural narrative
- **Reading:** Herodotus, *Histories* Book 1.1-94 (preface + Lydian Logos); Tyrtaeus, *Poems* (selection available on Canvas); the Great Rhetra

**Friday, June 3 – Athens Between Tyranny, Oligarchy, and Democracy**

- **Topics Covered:** Class issues in historical thought, Solon’s reforms, the Peisistratid tyranny, democratic thought, Cleisthenes
- **Reading:** Herodotus, *Histories* Book 3; selections from Solon, *Poems*
- **Quiz #2**

**Annotated Bib. Part 1 – Primary Source – due Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **Week 3: The Long Fifth Century, pt. 1**

(Optional) Textbook Reading for the Week: McInerney Ch. 6, Ch. 7, Ch. 8

#### **Monday, June 6 – The Persian Wars and Athenian Triumphalism**

- **Map Quiz Due**
- **Topics Covered:** The Persian Wars, Athenian Art and Architecture, the birth of Orientalism, the Spartan *mythos*
- **Reading:** Herodotus, *Histories* 7.8-19 (Xerxes' Dreams), 7.206-239 (Thermopylae), 8.1-23 (Artemision); Thucydides *History* 1.89-117.

#### **Wednesday, June 8 – Democracy, Imperialism, and the Delian League**

- **Topics Covered:** The Delian League, the Relationship between democratic institutions and imperial conquest, civic participation
- **Reading:** Aristophanes, *Birds*; selections from Aristotle, *Athenian Constitution*

#### **Friday, June 10 – Studying Marginalized Identities in the Greek World**

- **Topics Covered:** Gender, Slavery, Household management, ancient economy, urban life
- **Reading:** Lysias, *On the Murder of Eratosthenes*; selections from Sappho
- **Quiz #3**

### **Week 4: The Long Fifth Century, pt. 2**

(Optional) Textbook Reading for the Week: McInerney Ch. 9, Ch. 10

#### **Monday, June 13 – Belief, Ritual, and Philosophy in the Greek World**

- **Topics Covered:** Superstition, Polis-Religion, Olympia, Delphi, Eleusis, Greek Rationalism
- **Reading:** Euripides, *Bacchae*; *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

#### **Wednesday, June 15 – The Peloponnesian War: Justice or Expediency?**

- **Topics Covered:** The Pentekonteteia, Causes of the Peloponnesian War, Strategy and Tactics, Historical Narrative and rhetoric regarding the war
- **Reading:** Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; Thucydides, 2.34-54 (Pericles' Funeral Oration & the Plague) & 5.84-116 (the Melian Dialogue)

**Friday, June 17 – The Defeat of Athens and Spartan Hegemony**

- **Topics Covered:** The Thirty Tyrants, Socrates’ trial, Recovery in Athens, Spartan hegemony in the Aegean, Corinthian War, the Common Peace
- **Reading:** selections from Lysias, *Against Eratosthenes*; selections from Plato, *Apology*; selections from Xenophon, *Apology*; Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen*
- **Quiz #4**

**Annotated Bib. Part 2 due Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 5: The Fourth Century**

*(Optional) Textbook Reading for the Week:* McInerney Ch. 11, Ch. 12

**Monday, June 20 - The Second Athenian Confederacy and Theban hegemony**

- **Topics Covered:** Second Athenian League, Federal formations, Theban power, the Sacred Band, Battle of Leuctra, the Boeotian League
- **Reading:** Aristoteles Decree; *The Constitution of the Boeotians*

**Wednesday, June 22 – What went wrong, according to the Greeks**

- **Topics Covered:** The “death” of the Polis, Spartan collapse, Greeks outside of Greece
- **Reading:** Museum Exercise

**Friday, June 24 – Democracy in Crisis: Plato, Aristotle, and “Philosopher Kings”**

- **Topics Covered:** Platonic philosophy, the Allegory of the Cave, ideal communities, civic disengagement, class conflict
- **Reading:** selections from Plato, *Republic*; selections from Aristotle, *Politics*

**Sunday, June 26 – Museum Exercise Due**

**Week 6: Panhellenism, Macedon, and the Hellenistic World**

*(Optional) Textbook Reading for the Week:* McInerney Ch. 13

**Monday, June 27 – Panhellenism, Macedon, and King Philip II**

- **Topics Covered:** Macedonian Society and Culture, Greek discourses of ethnic Panhellenism, Macedonian conquest of Greece
- **Reading:** Isocrates, *Letters to Philip II*; Demosthenes, *On the Crown*

**Wednesday, June 29 – Alexander the Great and The Hellenistic World**

- **Topics Covered:** Alexander's conquests, colonization, cultural hybridity, Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Empire, Pergamum and Asia Minor, Menander and new comedy
- **Reading:** Alexander and the Gordian Knot (selection); select inscriptions (available online)

**Thursday, June 30 – Final Project due by 11:59pm ET**