

History 4410
3.0 Credits
Fall Semester 2011
12-12:50 MWF
Business 208

Dr. Ping

ANCIENT GREECE

European civilization begins in Greece. They are the first people of antiquity who seem to share recognizable attitudes about liberty, life, philosophy, and art. When we confront the Ancient Greeks, we encounter people from antiquity who can seem very much like ourselves. Their curiosity led them to explore the Mediterranean world. More importantly, their restless and confident collective psychology led them to ask questions about nature and the universe and to begin scientific and philosophic inquiry for its own sake. The history of Greece is the beginning of our history.

Required Texts:

Sarah B. Pomeroy, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece* (New York: Oxford U. Press, Second Edition, 2008). **ISBN-10:** 019530800X

Steven Pressfield, *Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae* (Bantam, 2005) **ISBN-10:** 055338368X

The Pomeroy text is probably the best single-volume text available today. The Pressfield novel is nothing short of a modern classic of historical fiction. All reading assignments for History 4410 will be from these two required texts.

Office Hours:

MWF 10:00am – 12:00pm.
225K CENTRUM
X5457

Students are cordially invited to come by and discuss their concerns about grades, the class, or simply talk history.

Course Outcome/Objectives:

Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the methodologies, concepts, and subject matter of the historical discipline—in this case, the history and contributions of the Ancient Greeks to our civilization.

Class Policies:

History 4410 will be structured according to the lecture model. Your responsibilities therefore will include attending lecture and taking notes, completing the reading assignments, and taking the exams. Since the essay examinations in this class will be drawn largely from material presented in lecture, your regular attendance will improve your chances of doing well in History 4410. Please turn off cell phones during class. If you bring your laptop to class, please do not take class time to surf the web or to do your personal emails! These activities are disruptive to your fellow students and professors often hear complaints.

Grading:

Your grade for History 4410 will be computed according to the results of two in-class midterm essay examinations and one in-class final exam. *Please note: students have the option of taking one or both midterm exams!* When I calculate the final grades, I will average the scores you received on two (or if you choose) three exams. All students are required to take the final exam when given! The exams are equally weighted. Since the essay examinations in this class will be drawn largely from material presented in lecture, your regular attendance will improve your chances of doing well in History 4410.

Midterm I: Friday, October 14.

Midterm II: Friday, November 18.

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 13 @ 11:00am

Each exam will count for approximately 30% of your grade. You will be responsible for all reading assignments and material presented in class upon the exams. Study guides for the exams can be found at the end of this course syllabus.

ADA DISCLAIMER:

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SDD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SDD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the

student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Class Schedule, Lecture Topics, and Reading Assignments:

Week 1: (August 22-26) Introduction to Greece, *Pomeroy*, Chap 1. Begin *Pressfield*. **Video:** In Search of the Trojan War.

Week 2: (August 29 -September 2) From the Bronze Age to Homer. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 2.

Week 3: (September 5-9) Homer, Mythology, Greek religion, *Pomeroy*, Chapter 3. *Richard, Chapter 1. Homer*. No class Monday September 5, Labor Day.

Week 4: (September 12-16) The Hoplite Revolution and the Rise of the Polis. Early Sparta, early Athens: A Tale of Two Cities. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 4. **Video:** "The Rise of Greece."

Week 5: (September 19-23) Aristotle & Athenian politics, Ionian Enlightenment, Herodotus, *Pomeroy*, Chapter 5.

Week 6: (September 26-30) Persian invasions, Xerxes, Themistocles, Salamis. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 6. Complete *Pressfield*.

Week 7: (October 3-7) Continue Persian Wars, *Pomeroy*, Chapter 6.

Week 8: (October 10-14) Athenian democracy, gender and imperialism. *Pomeroy*, Chapters 6 and 7.

Week 9: (October 17-21) Athenian Imperialism and the origins of the Peloponnesian War. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 8. No class Monday & Tuesday, Fall Break.

Week 10: (October 24-28) The Peloponnesian War and its Consequences. Thucydides and political realism. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 8.

Week 11: (October 31-November 4) Civil War and the Decline of the Polis, Socrates and the individual. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 9.

Week 12: (November 7-11) Greece in the Fourth Century, Plato. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 9.

Week 13: (November 14-18) Philip of Macedon. *Pomeroy*, Chapter 10.

Week 14: (November 21-25) Alexander the Great and the end of the Polis. *Pomeroy*, Chapters 11 and 12. *No Class Wednesday and Friday — THANKSGIVING RECESS.*

Week 15: (November 28-December 2) Video: “*Alexander the Great.*”
Hellenistic Thought: Epicureanism, Stoicism, & Cynicism.

Week 16: (December 5-9) Course Review, Class instruction ends Wednesday, December 7.

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 13 @ 11:00am

Midterm I Review

1. What were the main characteristics of Greek religion? How did Greek humanism and skepticism differ from the viewpoints of the rest of the ancient world?
2. Describe Spartan society. What was life like for Spartan men? How would you characterize the Spartan political system?
3. Why did the Persians and Greeks go to war? What was at stake in this conflict? According to Herodotus, who was most responsible for saving Greece?
4. What were the main steps in the transformation of Athenian society from the aristocratic society of 650 BC? What role did Solon, Pisistratus, and Cleisthenes each contribute to the process?

Possible Identifications:

Homer
Hoplite
Xerxes
Themistocles
Polis
Trireme
Marathon
Solon

Midterm Review II

Possible Identifications

Delian League
 Sophists
 Thucydides
 Long Walls
 Pericles
 Socrates
Stasis
 Corcyra
 Sicilian Expedition

Possible Essay Questions:

According to Thucydides, war brought out the worst in human nature while politics brought out the best. Discuss the Melian dialogue and the Spartan treatment of Plataea. How did the Athenians and Spartans justify their actions?

Compare and contrast Pericles and Alcibiades as statesmen and strategists. What was Pericles' strategy for victory? Did his successor Alcibiades carry that strategy out?

How did the experience of the Peloponnesian war affect Athenian society? In what ways do the life and death of Socrates illustrate the experience of war and defeat?

Write an essay in which you discuss the state of gender relations in the Athenian family.

Final Review

Possible Identifications

Philip II
 Aristotle
 Olympias
 Bucephalus
 Diogenes
 Ptolemy
 Gaugamela
 The Ten Thousand
 Leuctra

Isocrates & Pan-Hellenism

Please be prepared to discuss the following essay topics:

Evaluate the career and legacy of Alexander. How did his vision of empire differ from that of Pericles? How did Macedonian society differ from that of the classical Greek world of the Polis?

Discuss the main political characteristics that emerged in the Hellenistic successor states to Alexander's empire.

Compare and contrast Stoicism and Epicureanism. Which philosophy do you prefer and why?