Greece… Chosen by the Gods!! Or at least until they discovered Rome as a holiday destination… Greece, the cradle of Western civilisation – if, that is, we do not take into account the regions of the Ancient Near East… In any case: it is one of the most inspiring and inspired areas of the Mediterranean world, of the world at large, bringing forth an enormous number of the most incredible and tremendous achievements of the history of mankind – particularly in the Classical Period!

We begin our journey through time a little earlier, though, coming out of the Dark Ages that followed the horrors of war – the Trojan War – and the supposed destruction of an entire culture. We pass a new dawn, the rise of the Greek city-state, the polis, the building of the first Greek temples, the creation of new political structures, of a new society, which eventually produced all those famous highlights and landmarks we are still familiar with today.

COURSE ABSTRACT

The key objective of this course is to survey the history of Classical Greece, from its outset, through the political and cultural triumph of the Greek poleis, the Athenian victory over the Persians, the development of democracy, art, architecture, literature, philosophy, religion to its autumn days (to the subjugation of the poleis under Macedonian, and subsequently Roman, domination). Throughout this course we shall attack some of the major issues in the study of ancient Greek society and culture. History is never a single-minded and uniform matter. Primary sources, as well as secondary literature from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, reveal the drama of Greek history, society, politics, and culture. These texts, both ancient and modern, contribute to our awareness of the cultural tradition in which we ourselves also stand.

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

The World of Classical Greece meets twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:30 AM until 10:45 AM. It is expected of students to contribute for a significant part. They are responsible for completing all of the assigned readings, according to the schedule in this syllabus. This course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of ancient Greek history, or indeed of Greek language. It is intended that students acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the historical background and facts of ancient Greece in the Classical Period, as well as that of the working of historical mechanisms.

Attendance and Assessment

Attendance is mandatory. The success of each session depends to a considerable extent on the students’ presence, as well as on their preparation. Final grade assessments will be based on the combination of two exams, and a written essay. A small percentage of the students’ grade will be derived from attendance and participation.

It is strongly recommended to take notes, both when reading and listening. These are an indispensable part of studying and learning, often the best means to anchor your thoughts with true understanding, transform opinion into knowledge, and establish comprehension rooted in memory. To write is to learn double the amount.
Exams and essay

There will be 2 (TWO) exams, as a test of your acquired knowledge and understanding of our textbook, and part of the additional literature. The textbook provides an extensive outline of the developments of Greek history, society and culture. The facts and the various backgrounds of events, both in time and throughout the classical Greek world, are the framework of any basic historical understanding and mode of thinking.

You are also required to write an essay, which needs to be submitted one week before the end of the semester. It is strongly recommended to start thinking of a suitable topic, including (some of) the appropriate material, right at the beginning of the course. You will in any case be summoned for a consult half way through the course, in order to establish an outline of the final essay. Essays count 10-15 pages.

Information MUST under all circumstances be cited. Plagiarism of any sort will result in a grade of “F” for the assignment, or, depending on the level, perhaps even for the entire course.

Essay Grading

Written work on essay assignments, and to a certain extent also the final exam, meriting the grade of “A” (excellent) must:

- address the central question or topic directly and intelligently;
- demonstrate a careful and considered reading of the texts at hand;
- present a lucid thesis and a persuasive argument in its defence;
- use correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction;
- make ample and appropriate use of quotations from the texts;
- weave together thesis and argument, quotations and interpretations;
- reveal thoughtfulness, originality and insight.

Written work and examinations awarded the grade of “B” (good) adequately fulfil a majority of these criteria, with areas of improvement indicated by grading remarks and comments.

The grade of “C” (average) is given when written work and examinations fail to meet most criteria, therefore indicating to the student that an appointment should be made with the professor, before the next essay assignment, to discuss methods for improvement.

Finally, the grade of “D” is assigned to written work and examinations that are simply unacceptable, according to the criteria outlined above, in which case an appointment must be made with the professor and arrangements determined for re-submitting the assignments in an acceptable form.

Grading Percentages:

- Exam 1 30%
- Exam 2 30%
- Final Essay 30%
- Participation 10%

Students who wish to request a review of the final course grade must provide original versions of all their graded course assignments.

LITERATURE

- *Reader.*
COURSE PROGRAM

WEEK 1: HISTORY... HELLAS... CHAOS...

WEEK 2: OUT OF THE DARKNESS...

- Ober (2015), pp. 1-19

WEEK 3: FROGS... AROUND THE POND!

- Ober (2015), pp. 21-44.

WEEK 4: WHO'S CALLING US ANIMALS?! WELL, ARISTOTLE...


WEEK 5: ‘BUT WHEREFORE DO NOT YOU A MIGHTIER WAY MAKE WAR UPON THIS BLOODY TYRANT, TIME?’


WEEK 6: THIS IS... SPARTA!


WEEK 7: IT IS TRUE, SAID PERICLES... ATHENS!

**Week 8: Power To The People…**


**Week 9: Gods Behaving Badly…**


**Week 10: Idiots…!**


**Week 11: When the War is Over…**


**Week 12: Alexander… Great?**