

Classics 10: Discovering the Greeks¹

June 24 - August 2, 2019



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Office Hours: Dodd 2
Mon 10-11 am
Wed 12-1 pm

This course provides an introduction to ancient Greek culture, history, and society. It is arranged **THEMATICALLY**, not chronologically. Ancient Greek culture flourished across multiple literary genres. We analyze a new genre each week and scrutinize what information we can glean from it. All out-of-class readings are from **PRIMARY SOURCES**. In class, we discuss and contextualize these sources. Class sessions also include visual analyses of contemporary Greek art and other material remains, short lectures on Greek history, and other relevant activities. Although not in a straight line, we cover Greek history from the 12th to the 2nd centuries BCE, with a special focus on the period containing most of our primary sources (the 7th to the 4th centuries BCE).

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- analyze ancient primary sources with a keen, in-depth, and skeptical eye.
- form theses based upon primary sources and build arguments in support of them.
- draw evidence from multiple sources to address difficult (sometimes unresolvable) questions.
- gain a working knowledge of Greek history.
- grow the scope and depth of their knowledge of—and appreciation for—Greek culture and society.

¹ Instructor retains the right to adjust the syllabus as necessary.

TEXTS

*Translations vary widely: **YOU MUST USE THE EDITION LISTED HERE.** All texts are available for purchase at the UCLA bookstore; you can also buy them online at Amazon, etc. Electronic copies of these editions are fine. I will post to the course website all readings not from one of the four required textbooks. (I am listing the other seven texts here for those who prefer hardcopies.)*

Required:

1. Homer. *The Iliad*, trans., Caroline Alexander. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2016.
2. Homer. *The Odyssey*, trans., Emily Wilson. New York: Norton & Company, 2018.
3. Multiple Authors. *Greek Lyric Poetry*, trans., M. L. West. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
4. Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripides. *The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides*, eds., Mary Lefkowitz, James Romm. New York: Random House, 2017.

Optional:

5. Hesiod. *Works and Days and Theogony*, trans., Stanley Lombardo. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.
6. Herodotus. *The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories*, ed., Robert B. Strassler. New York: Knopf Doubleday, 2009.
7. Thucydides. *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*, ed., Robert B. Strassler. New York: Free Press, 1998.
8. Aristophanes. *Clouds*, trans., Jeffrey Henderson. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.
9. Aristophanes. *Frogs*, trans., Jeffrey Henderson. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2008.
10. Aristophanes. *Lysistrata*, trans., Jeffrey Henderson. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1988.
11. Multiple Authors. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, 5th Edition, eds., S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, C. D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2016.

GRADING

25% Participation: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in class activities. Unexcused absences may negatively effect your participation grade. During weeks 4 and 5, students participate in low-pressure performances of tragedy and comedy; these will be assessed as part of your participation grade.

15% Twitter Challenge: Students create a Twitter account in the persona of one of the authors, literary characters, or historical figures whom we cover in this course. Students tweet in the voice of the persona: you may simply quote the sources, or you may write new content, reacting to the day's news and engaging Twitter at large as you imagine your persona would. Your account must be up and running by Friday of week 1

(6/28), and you must tweet at least three times per week. A 1 page reflection is due Wednesday of week 6 (7/31). See assignment handout for further details.

35% Paper: 5-6 pages, due Monday of week 6 (7/29). Students analyze one or more primary sources and form an argument with a falsifiable thesis. Prompts of possible topics will be handed out, but students can also write a paper of their choosing with prior approval from me. We will discuss this paper in depth throughout the term and especially during our writing workshop in week 4 (7/15).

25% Final: The final exam will be held during our last class session (8/2). It will include short answers, passage identifications, and short essays. If you have done all of the reading, it will not be difficult. We will hold exam prep during the first two class sessions of week 6.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you wish to request an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Center for Accessible Education at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206-6083 (telephone device for the Deaf & hard of hearing), www.cae.ucla.edu.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All rules and policies outlined in the UCLA Student Conduct Code concerning academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, and the like will be observed during this course.

<http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct-Code>

We will discuss this topic during our writing workshop in week 4 (7/15). If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, discuss with me BEFORE submitting material.

CONTENT WARNING

Our sources depict bigotry, violence, and rape. We will treat these topics with the seriousness they deserve, but they are liable to come up in any reading or class session.

CALENDAR / READING ASSIGNMENTS

All reading must be completed BEFORE the specified class session begins. Make sure to bring a (hard- or electronic) copy of the listed reading to class.

Week 1: Homer: In the first session, we go over the syllabus, introduce the assignments, and summarize the course. We also dive right into Homer. In the following two sessions, we analyze Homer in greater depth. We discuss the era that is depicted in the texts (12th century), the time when it was first written (c. late 8th century), and the intervening period.²

Mon 6/24: [No Reading]
Wed 6/26: *Iliad* Books 1, 6 [Wilson pp. 1-22, 119-36]
Fri 6/28: *Odyssey* Books 9-10 [Alexander pp. 240-278]

Week 2: Hesiod and the Lyric Poets: This week we analyze a multitude of poets. Hesiod resembles Homer in form (they both write in dactylic hexameter) but differs in content. The many lyric poets vary in form and cover multifarious topics and themes. We discuss the 7th and 6th centuries in detail and briefly contextualize the later poets.

Mon 7/1: Hesiod *Theology, Works and Days* [online]
Wed 7/3: Archilochus, Tyrtaeus, Alcman, Sappho, Alcaeus [West pp. 1-15, 23-27, 31-63]
Fri 7/5: Theognis, Solon, Hipponax, Xenophanes, Telesilla, Praxilla, Anonymous Party Songs [West pp. 64-83, 116-24, 157-9, 177-181, 189-90]

Week 3: Historiography: We move from poetry to prose this week. Herodotus' wide-ranging text is the oldest extant work of historiography and Greek prose. Later historians mimic and differ from Herodotus in various ways. We introduce the 5th century, which will be examined in greater depth in the coming weeks, and cover the history of the following centuries.

Mon 7/8: Herodotus 1.1-14, 1.107-140, 1.205-216, 8.40-125 [online]
Wed 7/10: Thucydides 1.1-1.22, 5.84-6.61.1, 7.70-87 [online]
Fri 7/12: Xenophon *Hellenica* 1.1.1-3, 7.4-5; Arrian 1.1-2, 4.7-14 [online]

Week 4: Tragedy: This week we cover the three canonical tragedians, all from 5th century Athens. We explore what they each can tell us about Athenian culture and society despite the fact that none of them take place in Athens or have Athenians among their main characters. On Monday, we conduct a writing workshop for the final papers.

Mon 7/15: Aeschylus *Persians* [Lefkowitz and Romm pp.9-44]; WRITING WORKSHOP
Wed 7/17: Sophocles *Oedipus the King* [Lefkowitz and Romm pp.225-74]
Fri 7/19: Euripides *Bacchae* [Lefkowitz and Romm pp. 741-88]

² All dates in this sections are BCE.

Week 5: Comedy: Our three comedies this week, again all from 5th century Athens, offer us further looks into three distinct themes, namely Socratic philosophy, gender relations, and the genre of tragedy. We will scrutinize the pros and cons of comedy as a historical source and look at fragments and passages from other comics besides Aristophanes.

Mon 7/22: Aristophanes *Clouds* [online]
Wed 7/24: Aristophanes *Lysistrata* [online]
Fri 7/26: Aristophanes *Frogs* [online]

Week 6: Philosophy: Our final week looks into the wide-ranging world of Greek Philosophy. We begin with some of the earlier natural philosophers, sometimes called PreSocratics, before moving on to Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Our final exam takes place during our last class session.

Mon 7/29: **PAPER DUE.** Thales, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Anaxagoras [online]
Wed 7/31: Plato *Symposium*; Aristotle *Physics* 1.1, 1.5-9 [online], TWITTER
CHALLENGE REFLECTION DUE
Fri 8/2: **FINAL** [No Reading]