

# Ancient Mediterranean World

CLST 120 - Spring 2007

## Course Information

Instructor: Michael Seaman  
Email: mseaman@depauw.edu  
Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 1:50 PM  
Class Location: JSC 157  
Office: East College L-25 (lower level; note: this is different from my office listed online)  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday at 1:50 - 2:50 PM and by appointment  
Office Phone: 658-6567

## Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the history of the Mediterranean basin (including the Near East) from *ca.* 3000 BC to *ca.* AD 600. The lectures are intended to (1) provide a broad overview of political, cultural and religious history; (2) introduce you to the ancient texts and other forms of historical evidence used to understand the history of the different civilizations in the region; and (3) help you to develop writing and critical thinking skills.

The progression of course units is designed to introduce systematically and comprehensively the characters and events that unfold in the ancient Mediterranean world and shape Western civilization, from the beginnings of civilization in the Near East and Egypt, to the achievements of ancient Greece and Rome, to the rise of Christianity. Themes to be explored are differing social structures and political organizations, the impact of technology, evolution of the family and gender roles, war, religion and cultural expression. When relevant, comparisons will be made between the ancient and modern worlds. In this class, you will read many of the literary classics of Western Civilization, which should give you a solid literary and historical foundation for future studies at DePauw. No prior knowledge of ancient history is required.

## Course Requirements

Students will be expected to read 75 to 125 pages per week. Reading assignments should be completed before lecture. Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Since the lectures cover material found outside of your texts, it will be impossible to pass the class without regular attendance. Students with more than two unexcused absences will, at the end of the semester, have their course grades automatically lowered by three percent for each additional absence. If you are sick, your absence will be excused only if you bring a doctor's excuse. Lectures will often include images of artifacts, art or architecture from the ancient world about which you have read or heard in lecture. Such images may reappear on exams and so you should take appropriate notes on these images as well as on the lectures. Most of the lecture material is not covered in the texts so you are encouraged to take good lecture notes. Periodically, I will pass out additional materials (e.g. handouts with selections from ancient texts) for us to read as a class, in order to facilitate discussion. Material from these handouts may also be on the exams. All images shown in lectures and any class handouts will be posted on Blackboard for your review.

Participation is an integral part of the class. You are expected to have each day's reading assignment completed before the lecture. On most days, we will hold brief discussions of the ancient texts. On approximately ten days, we will hold more substantial discussions of important issues raised by the ancient texts, during which you are encouraged to raise questions and express an informed opinion to facilitate the discussion. Your preparation for, and participation in, these discussions will be graded and constitute 20% of your final grade (see below). *Please bring the Bailkey text (the ancient sources) to each lecture.* In addition, students will take a map quiz, a midterm exam and a final exam and will submit two essays of one page in length on a topic given by me two weeks in advance and one paper of approximately four to five pages in length on one of several topics given by me three weeks in advance. For the longer paper, you are welcome to write on a relevant topic of your choice, provided it is approved in advance by me. More detailed instructions for the papers will be given in class. Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 5% Map Quiz (scheduled in class on Monday, 12 February)
- 20% Discussion Participation
- 10% Two Short Papers of one page each (due in class on Friday, 23 February & Friday, 9 March, respectively)
- 15% One Medium Paper of four to five pages (due in class on Friday, 27 April)
- 20% Midterm Exam (scheduled in class on Friday, 16 March)
- 30% Final Exam (scheduled on Saturday, 12 May from 8:30 to 11:30 AM)

## **Required Texts**

The following books are required for the class and are available in the DePauw bookstore:

- N. Bailkey and R. Lim: *Readings in Ancient History: Thought and Experience from Gilgamesh to St. Augustine*, 6th ed. (New York 2002). Abbreviated below as *RAH*.
- C. Freeman: *Egypt, Greece and Rome: Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean*. 2d ed. (New York 2004). Abbreviated below as *EGR*.
- Sophocles: *The Theban Plays: King Oedipus; Oedipus at Colonus; Antigone*. Trans. by E.F. Watling. (New York 1950, with many reprints). Abbreviated below at *Soph*.
- Course Packet containing selections of readings on early medieval history covering the advent of Islam, Charlemagne and Feudalism. Abbreviated below as *CP*.

## **Select Bibliography**

The following list consists of additional recommended works by modern authors on a variety of the topics covered in the course. You may wish to consult some of them, particularly when researching your papers. They are available through the DePauw library or may be purchased separately.

- A. H. M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire 284 - 602*, 2 vols. (Baltimore 1986).
- B. Watterson, *The Egyptians* (Oxford 1997).
- M. Pallottino, *The Etruscans*, trans. by J. Cremona, 2d. ed. (London 1978).
- J. Macqueen, *The Hittites and their Contemporaries in Asia Minor*. 2d ed. (New York 1986).
- S. James, *The World of the Celts* (New York 1993).
- F. Heichelheim et al., *A History of the Roman People*. 2d ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ 1984).
- E. Fantham et al., *Women in the Classical World: Image and Text* (New York 1994).
- W. Harris, *Ancient Literacy* (Cambridge, MA 1989).
- V. Ehrenberg, *From Solon to Socrates: Greek History and Civilization during the 6th - 5th Cent. BC*. 2d ed. (New York 1973).
- J. P. Mallory, *In Search of the Indo-Europeans: Language, Archaeology and Myth* (New York 1989).
- M. I. Finley, *The Ancient Economy*, 2d ed. (Berkeley and Los Angeles 1985).
- M. H. Hansen, *The Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes*, trans. by J. A. Crook (Oxford 1991).
- W. Burkert, *Greek Religion*, trans. by J. Raffan (Cambridge, MA 1985).
- A. H. M. Jones, *Sparta* (Oxford 1967),
- D. B. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan and Israel in Ancient Times* (Princeton 1992).
- H. D. Rankin, *Celts and the Classical World* (New York 1996).
- H. H. Scullard, *A History of the Roman World 753 to 146 BC*, 4th ed. (New York 1980).
- \_\_\_\_\_, *From the Gracchi to Nero: A History of Rome 133 BC to AD 68*, 5th ed. (New York 1982).
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Etruscan Cities and Rome* (New York 1967).
- R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (Oxford 1939).
- A. Cameron, *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity AD 395 to 600* (New York 1993).
- C. Wells, *The Roman Empire* (Stanford 1984).
- M. Crawford, *The Roman Republic*, 2d ed. (Cambridge, MA 1992).
- P. Garnsey and R. Saller, *The Roman Empire: Economy, Society and Culture* (Berkeley and Los Angeles 1987).

- T. Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman Slavery* (New York 1981).  
 P. Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity* (New York 1971).  
 S. Pomeroy et al., *Ancient Greece: A Political, Social and Cultural History* (Oxford 1999).  
 R. Sealey, *A History of the Greek City States 700 - 338 BC* (Berkeley and Los Angeles 1976).  
 P. Schäfer, *A History of the Jews in Antiquity* (Toronto 1995).

### **Other Resources**

The *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is available in the library reference area) contains concise entries on classical authors, gods, heroes, cities, and other classical topics.

The Perseus Project (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>) contains an enormous number of classical texts, in the original and in English translation, and images. Students wishing to read more of the texts excerpted in Bailkey and Lim may wish to look here before purchasing books.

The Internet Classics Archive (<http://classics.mit.edu/index.html>) contains many ancient texts and links to texts.

### **Schedule of Assignments**

#### **Week 1: Introduction to Ancient History; The Ancient Near East I: Mesopotamia and Egypt**

Mon., 29 Jan.: Introduction to ancient history; A look at ancient sources; Why study Ancient History and Western Civ.?

**\*Ancient Mediterranean study map distributed in class (map quiz in two weeks)**

Wed., 31 Jan.: Ancient Mesopotamia - Read *EGR* chs. 1-2; *RAH* nos. 1-4

**\*Discussion of the ancient Mesopotamian readings**

Fri., 2 Feb.: Ancient Egypt - Read *EGR* ch. 3; *RAH* nos. 5-11

#### **Week 2: The Ancient Near East II: Hittites; Hebrews and ancient Palestine; Phoenicia; Ancient Persia**

Mon., 5 Feb.: The Hebrews and Ancient Palestine - Read *EGR* ch. 5; *RAH* no. 13 A-H

**\*Discussion of Old Testament readings**

Wed., 7 Feb.: Ancient Assyria and Phoenicia - Read *EGR* ch. 4; *RAH* nos. 12

Fri., 9 Feb.: Ancient Persia and the Achaemenid Empire - Read *EGR* ch. 6; *RAH* nos. 14 A-B

**\*Paper topic for first short paper distributed (due in two weeks)**

#### **Week 3: Crete and Early Greece; The Rise of the Greek Polis; Early Greek Literature**

Mon., 12 Feb.: Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations - Read *EGR* pp. 110-133

**\*Ancient Mediterranean map quiz given in class**

Wed., 14 Feb.: The Emergence of the Greek Polis - Read *EGR* pp. 140-158; 162-168

Fri., 16 Feb.: Early Greek Literature and Culture - Read *EGR* pp. 133-140; 158-161; 183-189; *RAH* nos. 15-18

**\*Discussion of the readings from Homer and Hesiod**

#### **Week 4: Sparta; Athens; The Persian Wars**

Mon., 19 Feb.: Early Sparta - Read *EGR* pp. 168-172; *RAH* no. 21

Wed., 21 Feb.: Early Athens - Read *EGR* pp. 172-179; *RAH* nos. 19-20

Fri., 23 Feb.: The Persian Wars - Read *EGR* ch. 12; *RAH* no. 22

**\*First short paper due in class; Paper topic for second short paper distributed (due in two weeks)**

**\*Discussion of the readings from Herodotus and his historical method**

**Week 5: Athenian Empire; Athenian Democracy in the Age of Pericles; Classical Greek Literature**

Mon., 26 Feb.: Classical Athenian Democracy - Read *EGR* pp. 179-182; 249-257; 264-269; *RAH* nos. 24, 28

**\*Discussion of ancient Athenian democracy**

Wed., 28 Feb.: Athenian Empire - Read *EGR* pp. 247-249; 260-264; *RAH* no. 23

Fri., 2 Mar.: The Peloponnesian War and Aftermath - Read *EGR* pp. 297-309; *RAH* nos. 25-26

**\*Discussion of the readings from Thucydides on Empire, Democracy and War**

**Week 6: Greek Philosophy and Religion; Greek Art and Architecture; Peloponnesian War**

Mon., 5 Mar.: Classical Greek Literature and Culture - Read *EGR* pp. 215-235; 270-282; 294-296; *Soph.* "King Oedipus"

**\*Discussion of Sophocles' *King Oedipus***

Wed., 7 Mar.: Greek Philosophy and Religion - Read *EGR* pp. 189-197; 236-242; 282-293; *RAH* nos. 27, 29-30

Fri., 9 Mar.: Greek Art and Architecture - Read *EGR* pp. 243-246; 257-260

**\*Second short paper due in class**

**Week 7: Philip II and the Rise of Macedon; Alexander the Great; Hellenistic Culture**

Mon., 12 Mar.: The Rise of Macedon; Philip II and Alexander the Great - Read *EGR* pp. 309-332; *RAH* nos. 31-32

Wed., 14 Mar.: The Hellenistic Age; Hellenistic Culture - Read *EGR* pp. 333-360; *RAH* nos. 33-40

Fri., 16 Mar.: **\*Midterm Exam administered in class**

**Week 8: Etruscans and Early Rome; Early Roman Republic; Early Roman Imperialism**

Mon., 19 Mar.: The Etruscans - Read *EGR* pp. 361-372

Wed., 21 Mar.: Founding of the Roman Republic - Read *EGR* pp. 372-382; *RAH* nos. 41, 43

**\*Discussion of Athenian vs. Roman Democracy**

Fri., 23 Mar.: Early Roman Imperialism - Read *EGR* pp. 383-401; *RAH* no. 42

***Spring Break***

**Week 9: The Roman Revolution; End of the Roman Republic; Augustus and The *Pax Romana*; The Julio-Claudians**

Mon., 2 Apr.: Roman Revolution - Read *EGR* pp. 402-429; *RAH* nos. 44-47

Wed., 4 Apr.: End of the Roman Republic - Read pp. 429-449; *RAH* nos. 49-52

Fri., 6 Apr.: Augustus and the Julio-Claudian Emperors - Read *EGR* pp. 450-458; 463-485; *RAH* nos. 54-55, 59

**\*Paper topics for medium-length paper distributed (due in three weeks)**

**Week 10: Augustan Culture; The Roman Army; Administration and Romanization; Roman Slavery; Roman Sports**

Mon., 9 Apr.: Roman Literature and Culture in the Age of Augustus - Read *EGR* pp. 458-63; 512-517; *RAH* nos. 53, 60-61

Wed., 11 Apr.: The Roman Army; Roman Administration and Romanization - Read *EGR* pp. 495-512; *RAH* nos. 56-57

**\*Discussion of Roman Imperialism and Romanization**

Fri., 13 Apr.: Roman Slavery; Roman Sports and Entertainment - Read *EGR* pp. 524-540; *RAH* nos. 48, 58

**Week 11: Roman Architecture; Pagans & Christians; The Antonines; Third Century Crisis**

Mon., 16 Apr.: Roman Architecture; Roman Religion - Read *EGR* pp. 517-523

Wed., 18 Apr.: Early Christianity; Persecution of Christians - Read *EGR* pp. 564-581; *RAH* nos. 64, 65-67, 68 C

**\*Discussion of the Christian Persecutions**

Fri., 20 Apr.: The Second and Third Centuries AD - Read *EGR* pp. 485-494; 541-555; *RAH* no. 63

**Week 12: Diocletian's Restoration; Later Roman Empire; Constantine the Great; The Early Church and Monasticism**

Mon., 23 Apr.: Diocletian and the Later Roman Empire - Read *EGR* pp. 555-563; *RAH* no. 68 A & B

Wed., 25 Apr.: Constantine the Great - Read *EGR* pp. 582-597; *RAH* nos. 69-70

Fri., 27 Apr.: The Early Christian Church and Monasticism - Read *EGR* pp. 598-607; *RAH* nos. 71-72

**\*Medium-length paper due in class**

**Week 13: The Fall of Rome; The Barbarian World; Justinian and the Early Byzantine Empire; Muhammad and Islam**

Mon., 30 Apr.: The Fall of Rome; Barbarian Kingdoms in the West - Read *EGR* pp. 608-627; *RAH* nos. 62

Wed., 2 May: Justinian and the Early Byzantine Empire - Read *EGR* ch. 32

Fri., 4 May: Muhammad and Islam - Read *CP* sections I & II

**Week 14: Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance; Feudalism and the Forming of the Middle Ages**

Mon., 7 May: The Early Middle Ages; Charlemagne and the Carolingians; Feudalism - Read *CP* sections III, IV, V & VI

**\*Discussion of Feudalism**

Wed., 9 May: Film and discussion: Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*

**The Final Examination will be administered on Saturday, 12 May from 8:30 to 11:30 AM.**

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**Why stop here? Learn the rest of our history: *Western Civilization, part II (to 1789)*. Topics include:**

1. *The Birth of France and Germany*
2. *England in the Age of Alfred*
3. *Islamic Spain*
4. *The Medieval Manor & the Life of a Peasant*
5. *Medieval Monarchies*
6. *Medieval Towns and Trade*
7. *Medieval Religion and Culture*
8. *Women in the Middle Ages*
9. *Knights and Chivalry*
10. *Saints Francis and Dominic*
11. *The Crusades*
12. *Dante and Medieval Literature*
13. *Giotto and Medieval Art*
14. *The Black Death*
15. *Scholasticism & the Birth of the University*
16. *The Renaissance*
17. *The Protestant Reformation*
18. *The Age of Discovery*
19. *The English Civil Wars and Glorious Revolution*
20. *The Scientific Revolution*
21. *Witchcraft and Superstition*
22. *The Emergence of the European State System*
23. *The Age of Enlightenment*
24. *The French Revolution*