



UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

HIST 1421-01 GREEK & ROMAN CIVILIZATION - AY2024-T3

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT UNIT 2

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Introduction

Classical Greece, spanning approximately three centuries from 500 BC to 300 BC, nurtured the seeds of Western civilization. From governing systems and scientific thought to aesthetics and entertainment, tendrils of ancient Greek society interweave the tapestry of modern culture. Philosophy, democracy, medicine, architecture, mathematics, drama, and sports among other facets display imprints left by celebrated Greeks from Socrates to Euclid. The case stands firm that absence the formative blueprint drafted by classical Greece, today's societal structures would be largely unrecognizable.

In our math and science lessons, we have probably all heard of renowned mathematicians like Pythagoras and Archimedes. The remarkable mathematical prowess of Archimedes led to significant developments in calculus, geometry, and calculating the areas of various geometric forms. He also calculated a remarkably precise estimate of the mathematical constant pi, which is ubiquitous across science and math disciplines (Anonemuss, 2010).

Influences on Philosophy Shaping Education and Ethics

Ancient Greeks pioneered analytical inquiry into subjects spanning epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and logic (Mark, 2023). Socrates professed the merits of an examined life employing systematic questioning to reveal truths. The Socratic method established foundations for critical thinking, teaching students to judiciously reflect and reason before accepting conclusions. Such dialectic philosophy formally took shape in Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum – prototypes for educational institutions today. Principles taught in these ancient schools promoting discipline of thought and virtue continue to feature in modern curriculums. Additionally, Hippocratic

medicine instituted professional ethics steering doctors to display integrity, compassion, and service to human life in the face of adversity or pursuit of fame (Fletcher, 1930).

Impacts on Politics and Law

Concepts of citizen participation in government traced back to democratic processes in Athens have cascaded over time to emerge as standard governance protocol in many nations. Rules protecting equal rights within judicial systems originate from Solon's ancient legal reforms in Athens. Trial by jury started in Greece as did laying foundations for justice administration seen today. Natural law theories building on the Stoic idea of an innate right reason influenced ideologies upholding universal human rights. The legacy is visible in systems implementing checks and balances between branches of power to ensure no single group gains domination akin to ancient tyrants.

Contributions Shaping the Sciences and Arts

Strands of intellectual thought from philosophical dialectics to empirical observations made lasting impacts on both sciences and arts. Euclid's elements of geometry that systemized mathematical axioms remains regularly taught in schools today (Durant, n.d). Archimedes' discoveries on density and buoyancy adhere to practices in physics now. Hippocratic medicine instituted a rational methodology towards diagnosing and treating ailments, separating it from mysticism. In the domain of arts, Phidias' style of representing idealized realism set standards in sculpture copied by legendary artists including Michelangelo. The earliest forms of dramatic tragedies and comedies presented in Athens established templates for modern theatre. The pioneering Olympiad sporting event grew into the global Scale Olympic Games uniting international athletics.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the debt owed by today's society to classical Greece manifests across pillars of philosophy upholding ethics, seeds of democracy guaranteeing enfranchisement, pursuit of scientific canons seeking truths in nature, artistic schools expressing ideals of beauty and beyond. Their lasting contributions underscore the immense influence ancient Greeks continue to exert in shaping the modern world. From schools, hospitals and courts to museums, theatres, and stadiums – imprints left by Socrates, Hippocrates, Aristotle, Euclid and more remain indelible to this day. It is rightly claimed that without the teachers of ancient Greece, our present-day world would be largely alien and bereft of many recognizable features constituting society today.

References

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