

Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World AHC 325-6/ HIS 351D (Spring 2019)

Instructor: Prof. Paula J. Perlman
Office: Waggener 119
Office Hours: M 10:30-12:00, Th 1-2:30
Email: perlman at austin.utexas.edu
Phone: 512-471-7402

TA: Susan Crane
Office: WAG 11
Office Hours: M 1-2, W 1-2
susancrane at utexas.edu

Course Description:

This course focuses on essential developments in Greek history (social, cultural, and political) during the Late Classical (ca. 404-338 BCE) and Hellenistic (ca. 338-30 BCE) Periods: from the aftermath of the Peloponnesian War, a period of hostilities between Athens and Sparta and the allies of each that lasted almost thirty years, to the conquest of Greece by Rome. The course will devote roughly equal time to covering major events and personalities, exploring key developments in culture and society, and examining the various types of evidence available for the era (both written and archeological sources). We will begin (**Part I. Weeks 1-4**) with the history of the Greek city-state (poleis) in the Late Classical period and their subjugation in 338 BCE by Philip II, king of Macedonia and father of Alexander the Great. Next we will consider (**Part II. Weeks 4-5**) Alexander the Great and his creation of the largest empire then known (ca. 356-323 BCE). Thereafter, we will focus on the so-called "Successor Kingdoms" (**Part III. Weeks 6-10**) and explore the struggles of Alexander's generals after his death to carve out for themselves a share of Alexander's empire. Historians refer to the time of the successor kings and their empires (ca. 323-30 BCE) as the Hellenistic Period, a title that reflects the introduction of Greek culture to Asia and Africa (Egypt) and the development of various shades of hybrid (Greek and native) society and culture. **Part IV. Weeks 11-14** will explore some aspects of the phenomenon of Hellenization and of the indigenous reactions to it. We will conclude (**Part V. Weeks 14-15**) with a brief look at Rome's developing interest in the east and its conquest first of Greece (146 BCE), then Asia, and finally Egypt, where the death of Cleopatra VII (30 BCE) brought an end to the last of the successor kings and their empires.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

1. Required Texts

Austin, M. M., *The Hellenistic world from Alexander to the Roman conquest*.
Cambridge.

Walbank, F. W., *The Hellenistic World*. Harvard.

Supplementary Readings will be posted on Canvas.

2. Canvas

We will make extensive use of Canvas. In addition to the Syllabus, you will find the following course materials there:

- “Assignment and Study Guide” for each lecture
- “Assignment and Study Guide” for the each week’s discussion section
- weekly quizzes
- study guides for the three examinations
- supplementary readings
- powerpoints

3. Lectures

There will be two weekly lectures (MW 12:00-1:00 PM in Mezes Hall 1.120). These will combine historical outline with exploration of historical themes and problems in the interpretation of historical evidence. In order to get the most out of the lectures you will need to complete the reading assignment in advance of the lecture.

The Syllabus provides a road map for the course. You will find the assignments on Canvas in Modules. The Assignments will list the readings for the day, study questions to help guide you through the readings, and sometimes links to websites, images, etc. You are not required to write out answers to the questions asked on the Assignment and Study Guide for each lecture unless you are specifically asked to do so. We will not take up all of the questions together in lecture, but you should be able to respond to them.

4. Discussion Sections

The weekly sections are required; informed participation in them will constitute a major part of your final grade (see below). The main purpose of the discussion sections is to learn how to analyze ancient sources and discuss interpretations of them both orally and in writing. You will find the assignments for the discussion sections, study questions, and sometimes links to websites, images, etc. on Canvas. You should come prepared to discuss the questions in the discussion sections. You **MUST** bring the relevant materials

(readings and images etc.) with you to section. Failure to do so will cost you points in your grade for the Discussion Section.

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|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Section time: | TH 12-1 | F 10-11 | F 11-12 |
| Section place: | GAR 0.120 | RLP 0.124 | RLP 0.124 |
| AHC 325.6 | 33300 | 33290 | 33295 |
| HIS 351D | 39010 | 39000 | 39005 |

Discussion Section Participation. Informed participation in discussion is required, meaning that you must contribute regularly to the in-class conversation and demonstrate your familiarity with the primary sources (both textual and archaeological) assigned for each section.

Weekly Quizzes. Every week on Monday afternoon (starting from Week 3) a quiz concerning the primary source readings assigned for the Thursday-Friday sections will be posted on Canvas. You are required to complete the quiz before 11:00 AM on Thursday.

In-Class Presentation. Each of you will be in charge of presenting the ancient sources for one of the sections to your section mates and instructor. We will begin the in-class presentation in Week 4. In Week 3 your TA and I will model how to organize the presentation and will set up a calendar for the rest of the semester.

5. Calendar and Grading

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|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 15% | Midterm #1 | Monday, February 25 |
| 20% | Midterm #2 | Monday, April 8 |
| 30% | Final Exam | Monday, May 20, 2-5 PM |
| 35% | Discussion Section* | |

*Your grade in the Discussion Section will be based on the following components:

- attendance and informed participation in discussion (15%)
- quizzes (10%)
- in-class presentations (10%)

Letter grades will be based on the following numeric total of all of the grading components as follows:

A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 59 and below.

There will be no curve. If 50% of you score over 93, 50% of you will get an A. If nobody does, nobody will. Consistent improvement during the semester will improve your final course grade.

When merely quantitative methods cannot be applied, I will assign grades according to the following qualitative standards: an A-range grade (A+, A, A-) indicates complete mastery of the material and skills involved in the assignment; B-range grade (B+, B, B-) indicates advanced competency; a C-range grade (C+, C, C-) indicates basic competency; a D-range grade (D+, D, D-) indicates effort but insufficient competency; an F means that either you put no effort in the assignment or something went dramatically wrong.

If you have a question about a grade you receive on an exam you must wait at least one day before seeing your instructor or TA and you must read through any comments on the exam. Please be aware that if you do object to the grading of some portion of your exam, we will read through the entire exam. This could result in your score going up or down.

Consistent improvement during the semester will be taken into account in determining your final course grade. Make-up exams will be arranged only in the event of documented illness or other emergencies; you must let me know as far in advance of the exam as possible. Additionally, students may make up work missed for a religious holiday if they bring documentation of the holiday fourteen days in advance.

6. Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for discussion sections and (of course) strongly encouraged for lectures. Each student is allowed 1 unexcused absences from discussion section without penalty. Any other absence must be appropriately documented (e.g., with a doctor's note or a note from Student Emergency Services – Office of the Dean of Students). Notify me of your situation as soon as possible and document it immediately upon your return.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in the loss of 1% of your final grade for each unexcused absence.

7. Class Etiquette

Cell phones should be turned off or set to silent ring during class time. The use of laptops and tablets is allowed only for taking notes and checking assigned readings.

Phones, laptops, and tablets must be put away and turn off during exams. Failure to do so will result in the immediate invalidation of the exam.

Scholastic dishonesty on any graded assignment or quiz/exam will result in zero credit

on the assignment or quiz/exam. A second infraction will result in an F for the course. All cases of scholastic dishonesty will be reported to the student's college adviser.

Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on tests, or submitting work that is not either your own or accurately attributed to its source. For more information, contact Student Judicial Services at 471-2841, or go to http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

8. Disabilities

UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact SSD at 471-6259, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Note: students are expected to present a UT "accommodation letter" authorizing specific accommodations.

9. Religious Holidays

If you need to miss a class or other required class activity for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements for your absence.

Note: the University's Religious Days Policy is online:
http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/

10. UT Honor Code

"The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Schedule and Topics

We will follow the attached syllabus as closely as possible. Please check Blackboard for assignments and study questions and complete the assigned reading before the lecture. There is a substantial amount of reading for this course. I will supply you with study questions to help you focus your reading. I strongly encourage you not to fall behind the Syllabus.

Your Assignments and Study Guides are posted on Blackboard.

Week 1 (January 23-25)

Wed. Setting the Stage

Section none this week

PART I: The Late Classical Period (404-336 BCE)

Week 2 (January 28-February 1)

Lecture 1 Balance of Power in the early 4th Century BCE: Sparta, Athens, and Thebes

Lecture 2 Re-forming Coalitions: the Boiotian Federation and the Second Athenian Maritime League

Section Source Analysis: the Decree of Aristoteles

Week 3 (February 4-8)

Lecture 3 Macedonia in the Age of Philip II

Lecture 4 Public and Private Life in Late Classical Athens

Section Comedy and Society

Week 4 (February 11-15)

Lecture 5 Philip II and the Conquest of Greece

PART II: Alexander the Great

Lecture 6 Alexander: from Europe to Asia (356-332 BCE)

Section Sources for Alexander the Great

Week 5 (February 18-22)

Lecture 7 Alexander in Asia (to the Mutiny at the Hyphasis)

Lecture 8 Retreat and Death

Section Alexander's Aims and Aspirations

Week 6 (February 25-March 1)

Monday February 25—Midterm Examination I (material through Week 5)

Part III. The Age of the Successors

Lecture 9 Creation of the Successor Kingdoms

Section Mapping the Successor Kingdoms

Week 7 (March 4-8)

Lecture 10 Creation of the Successor Kingdoms (con't)

Lecture 11 The Achievement of Antigonus the One-Eyed

Section Hellenistic Diplomacy: Inscribed letters and Decrees Concerning Antigonus the "One-Eyed"

Week 8 (March 11-15)

Lecture 12 The Seleucid Kingdom in the 3rd Century. Part I

Lecture 13 The Seleucid Kingdom in the 3rd Century. Part II. Constructions of Kingship.

Section no discussion section

Spring Break (March 18-22)

Week 9 (March 25-29)

Lecture 14 The Seleucid Kingdom in the 3rd Century. Part I

Lecture 15 The Golden Age of Ptolemaic Egypt. Part I.

Section Documentary Papyri: The Family of Dryton

Week 10 (April 1-5)

Lecture 16 The Golden Age of Ptolemaic Egypt. Part II

Lecture 17 Alexandria: Cities and Cultural Exchange I

Section Aï-khanum: Cities and Cultural Exchange II

Week 11 (April 8-12)

Monday April 8—Midterm Examination II (material through Week 10)

Part IV. The Hellenistic World: Society and Culture

Lecture 18 Hellenistic Society and the Native Reaction

Section Apocalyptic Literature as Political Resistance: the Book of Daniel

Week 12 (April 15-19)

Lecture 19 Hellenistic Religions I

Lecture 20 Hellenistic Religions II

Section Ruler Cult

Week 13 (April 22-26)

Lecture 21 Hellenistic Philosophy

Lecture 22 Hellenistic Economies I

Section Hellenistic Economies II: Mr. Anonymous's Description of Greece
(character-class-economy)

Week 14 (April 29-May 3)

Lecture 23 Hellenistic Women

Part V. Roman Expansion in the East

Lecture 24 Introduction to Rome and the Eastern Mediterranean

Section History and poetry: the poems of Theocritus

Week 15 (May 6-10)

Lecture 25 Rome and Greece

Lecture 26 Rome and the Seleucid & Ptolemaic Dynasties

Section wrap-up meeting

Monday, May 20, 2-5 PM Final Examination