

HST 385R: HISTORY OF ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN CIVILIZATION
SPRING, 1997

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I. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course objectives are as follows:

A: To ascertain what meaning, if any, the term "Greco-Roman" has for historians.

B: To gain an appreciation of the major events, themes, issues, and trends, which constitute Greco-Roman civilization.

C. To sharpen our critical writing and thinking skills.

II. READING LIST: Here is our reading list. It's a gosh darn good one, if I do say so myself! All selections are taken from the Penguin Classics Library, so it is highly recommended that students hang on to these fine books, and consider them valuable additions to their personal library.

Gibbon, Edward, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. by E.V. Rieu

Livy, *The Early History of Rome*, trans. by Aubrey de Selincourt

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. by Mary Innes

Plutarch, *The Age of Alexander*, trans. by Ian Scott-Kilvert

--*The Fall of the Roman Republic*, trans. by Rex Warner

--*The Rise and Fall of Athens*, trans. by Ian-Scott Kilvert

Polybius, *The Rise of the Roman Empire*, trans. by F. Walbank

Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, trans. by Michael Grant

III. GRADING: There are 500 possible points available to students, based on five grading units. At the end of the semester, the students point total will be divided by five, to conform to a standard 100 points scale. Students grades will be based on the following:

A. Shorter Papers: Students will write four two page papers, discussing historical value of assigned readings. Students can select which four writers they would like to write about, but two must be about the Greek world, and completed in the first half of the semester. The other two must be about the Roman world, and be completed in the second half of the semester. Papers will be due on the last day in which the author in question is being discussed, or when the instructor indicates they are due. Each of the four papers will be worth 25 points, so the shorter paper grade will total 100 points. In the second week of class, students will indicate which authors they prefer to discuss in their papers.

B. Medium Sized Papers: Students will write two five page papers, on topics approved by the instructor. One will be a book-critique, probably discussing a book taken from the bibliography of your research paper. The other paper will

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focus on another ancient author, not included in the reading list. Students will share a brief presentation on their author with the class. Each mid-sized paper will be worth 100 points.

C. Research Paper: Students will complete a 12-15 page research paper, on some topic determined in consultation with the instructor. The paper will provide material for the student's classroom presentation. The paper will be worth 200 points.

D. Pass Fail Grades: While there will be no mathematical value assigned to the following, students will also be expected to do the following, which will be given a grade of p or n/p. An n/p grade would likely only occur in that rare case when a student failed to try his or her best. An n/p would probably have a negative effect upon the student's grade, contingent upon the instructor's judgement. N/P Grades are as follows:

1. Readings Notes: Students will be expected to take notes as they read. From time to time, students may be asked to show these notes to the professor.

2. Classroom Discussion: This course will require students to come to class prepared, and ready to discuss. Students must make a good-faith effort to contribute to the class.

3. The Final Exam/Presentation: The Final Examination here will take the form of a fifteen minute oral presentation, followed by a brief oral exam, in which you will field questions from the instructor, or your fellow students. The presentation will be based on your research paper. It will occur en lieu of the final examination, and during that time when the final examination is scheduled for our class. Proper attire will be expected for this presentation. Tips and pointers for the presentation will be distributed later in the semester.

4. Paper Topic Conferences: The week of March 18-20, students will meet privately with the instructor, to discuss their paper topics. They will be expected to have completed substantial amounts of preliminary research, and be ready to kick around some good ideas for a thesis.

IV. **READING SCHEDULE:** Reading schedules are below. Remember that the reading schedule corresponds to our discussion schedule, and the schedule of due-dates for your shorter papers. So please do try to follow it.

- January, 16: Class Orientation Day.
January 21: Homer, Introduction; 1-123 (1-8).
January 23: Homer, 124-239 (9-15).
January 28: Homer, 240-370 (16-24).
January 30: Plutarch, *Rise and Fall of Athens*, Theseus, Solon, Aristides, Cimon.
Feb. 04: Plutarch, *Athens*, Pericles, Nicias, Alcibiades, Lysander.
Feb. 06: Film. One of the shorter papers due.
Feb. 11: Plutarch, *Age of Alexander*, Agesilaus. Pelopidas, Dion, Timoleon.
Feb. 13: Plutarch, *Age of Alexander*, Timoleon, Demosthenes, Alexander.
Feb. 18: Plutarch, *Age of Alexander*, Alexander, Demetrius, Pyrrhus.
Feb. 20: Lecture on the Hellenistic World: Shorter Papers Due.
Feb. 25: Livy, *Early History of Rome*, Books I and II.
Feb. 27: Livy, *Early History of Rome*, Book III, IV and V.
March 04: Polybius, *Rise of Roman Republic*, 302-354; 535-540.
March 06: Special Presentation
March 18: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books I-VII.
March 20: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books VIII-XV.
March 25: Special Presentation, Paper Topic Conferences
March 27: Special Presentation, Paper Topic Conferences
Ap. 01: Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic*, Marius, Sulla, Crassus; The Entire Oxford College Library. Possible pop quiz.
Ap. 03: Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic*, Pompey, Caesar, Cicero.
Ap. 08: Tacitus, *Annals*, Part One: Tiberius
Ap. 10: Tacitus, *Annals*, Part Two: Claudius and Nero
Ap. 15: Gibbon, *Fall of Roman Empire*, 1-181.
Ap. 17: Gibbon, *Fall of Roman Empire*, 181-385.
Ap. 22: Gibbon, *Fall of the Roman Empire*, 385-510.
Ap. 24: Gibbon, *Fall of the Roman Empire*, 510-691.
Ap. 29: Wrap Up Discussion: The Meaning of Classicism