

Fall 2016

History 106: Ancient History (Near East, Egypt, Greece, Rome)

MWF: 11:15am – 12:05pm (Carolina Hall 0220)

Instructor: Bret Devereaux

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Office Hours: MW 9:30am – 10:30am and by appointment

Office: Hamilton 503

This three-part introductory course offers an overview of the history of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome beginning in c. 3000 B.C. At the end of the course we will consider to what degree there was truly a decline and ‘fall’ of the Roman Empire in the fourth to sixth centuries A.D. While necessarily having to be selective, each part of the course explores key aspects of government, society, economy and religion. We will look to examine these societies in their own context, but also to appreciate the significance of their experience down to the present day.

Despite the unavoidable need to rely upon modern treatments for most of the course, we will make use of selected readings from a range of ancient sources (in translation of course!) to illustrate the varied nature of the surviving record, as well as the historian’s difficulties and rewards in seeking to exploit it. No knowledge of ancient languages is required.

Course Structure and Expectations

This course will meet three times every week: **two lectures on Monday and Tuesday** and a **third meeting on Friday** which will be **either a lecture or a discussion section meeting** (but not both!). Section meetings will take place by recitation sections. Please refer to the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for a full listing of course meetings.

Although I do not plan to take attendance for the lectures (though I reserve the right to do so) I expect you to attend every meeting and to come prepared with your reading and any assignments completed. You are also expected to attend every scheduled discussion section meeting, where I **will** take attendance as part of your discussion participation grade. Missing discussions will have a significant negative impact on your grade! ***You are expected to bring a copy, physical or electronic, of any primary source reading to the relevant discussion section.***

Absences may be excused, but you must provide university paperwork (as per the policy of the Dean of Students) attesting to the reason of your absence and you must notify me and make arrangements to turn in any missed work *in advance* (if possible). In all cases, excused or otherwise, **if you must be absent**, the **earlier** you let me know, the better things will go.

Graded work in this course will consist of five short papers, three quizzes (the lowest scoring of which will be dropped), two midterm examinations, a final exam and a discussion participation mark. See the course schedule at the end of this document for a complete list dates for graded work.

The Honor Code is to be observed.

Grading

Five Papers	30%
Two (out of three) quizzes	10%
Discussion Participation	10%
Two midterms	30%
Final Exam	20%

Late Work Policy: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day noted in the syllabus. If you must for any reason miss class on the due date, you should make arrangements to email the paper to me ***before*** class begins and then hand me a **paper copy** at our next class meeting. Any paper not handed in during class (or emailed before class begins) will be considered late. **An essay will be marked down one full letter grade (10 points!) if late and then five additional points for every additional day it is late.**

Laptop Policy

Please **do not open your laptop** in this class. Numerous studies have shown that using laptops diminished not only your attendance and performance in the course, but also the attention and performance of all of your fellow students around you. Moreover, note taking by hand rather than by laptop has also been correlated with better learning outcomes.

Laptops **will** be permitted in discussion sections, but *only for accessing the reading*. Misuse of laptops during discussion sections will result in a blanket ban for everyone and a concomitant requirement to *print* all readings. If you feel you have a special need to use a laptop for note-taking in lecture, please come see me.

Coat-hook Dates

Note: dates marked with c. (for Latin *circa* meaning ‘around’ or ‘about’) are approximate.

- c. 2600 B.C. beginning of the Old Kingdom in Egypt
- c. 1200 B.C. – Late Bronze Age Collapse
- c. 750 B.C. – Archaic Period begins in Greece
- 480-479 B.C. – Second Persian Invasion.
- 323 B.C. – Death of Alexander the Great.
- 146 B.C. – Destruction of Corinth and Carthage
- 31 B.C. – Battle of Actium.
- 476 A.D. – Fall of Rome in the West

Be sure to check that you have access to Sakai for this course !

Books

You are expected to have **your own copy** of two books:

L. De Blois and R.J. van der Spek, *An Introduction to the Ancient World* (**second edition**, 2008)
Richard Talbert, *Atlas of Classical History* (also available as e-book).

For **reference**, two wide-ranging resources are available in Davis Reference and electronically via Davis online:

S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth (eds.), *The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization* [DE5.O92.1998]

R. Bagnall et al. (eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* [D54.E53.2013]

Translations of many Greek and Roman authors are accessible at www.perseus.tufts.edu [click on Classics top left].

Routledge Wall Maps for the Ancient World [seven maps, Davis Maps G7621.S2.2010; e-versions also obtainable]

Other books for further reading and reference. All are readily available in campus libraries. You are not expected to have your own copy of any:

Penguin Historical Atlas series: *Ancient Civilizations* by J. Haywood; *Ancient Egypt* by W. Manley; *Ancient Greece* by R. Morkot; *Ancient Rome* by C. Scarre

“Facts on File” series (as much historical as geographical):

M. Roaf, *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*

J. Baines and J. Malek, *Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt*

P. Levi, *Atlas of the Greek World*

T. Cornell and J. Matthews, *Atlas of the Roman World*

M. Van De Mieroop, *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 B.C.* [not Egypt]

J. Sasson, *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (4 vols.) [includes Egypt]

D.B. Redford, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* (3 vols.)

J. Boardman, *Oxford History of the Classical World*

Cambridge Illustrated History series:

P. Cartledge, *Greek World*; G. Woolf, *Roman World*

R.W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations from Prehistory to 640 CE*

S.B. Pomeroy et al., *A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society, and Culture*

M.T. Boatwright et al., *A Brief History of the Romans* [with maps accessible at awmc.unc.edu: choose Free Maps, and then click on *The Romans*]

Course Schedule and Readings

(numbers in square brackets refer to pages in L. De Blois and R.J. van der Spek, *An Introduction to the Ancient World*, and in R. Talbert, *Atlas of Classical History*)

Unit One: The Near East and Egypt

August

Wed. 24th: Course Introduction

Fri. 26th: Historical Background; Bronze Age Sumer, Akkad [DeB pp. 1-5, 9-13, 16-19]

Mon. 29th: Babylonian and Hittite Empires: Bronze Age cont. [DeB 21-24, 27-29, 31-32]

Wed 31st: Assyria and Persia [DeB 36-44; Atlas 18-21]

September

Fri. 2nd: *Sections Meet to discuss the Battle of Kadesh Reading. First Quiz*

Mon 5th: **LABOR DAY, NO CLASS**

Wed. 7th: Egypt [DeB 14-16, 20-1, 25-27, 31-36, 39]

Fri. 9th: Government and Military in the Near East and Egypt [DeB 59-62]

Mon. 12th: Religion in the Near East and Egypt [DeB 46-52]

Wed. 14th: Economy and Society in the Near East and Egypt [DeB 53-58]

Fri 16th: *Sections Meet. First Paper due*

Mon. 19th: **First Midterm Exam**

Unit Two: Greece and the Hellenistic World

Wed. 21st: Crete, Mycenae, the Bronze Age [DeB 29-31, 70-72, Atlas 2-12]

Fri. 23rd: *Sections Meet to discuss Homer reading*

Mon. 26th: Archaic Greece and the Greek *Polis* [DeB 65-70, 73-81; Atlas 16-17, 26, 29-33, 37, 41-43]

Wed. 28th: War and Society in Archaic and Classical Greece [DeB 73]

Fri. 30th: **NO CLASS**

October

Mon 3rd: Greek Colonization [DeB 70-72, 116-18; Atlas 13-15, 38-40, 49-50]

Wed. 5th: Trade and Economy in Archaic and Classical Greece [Atlas 51-53]

Fri. 7th: *Sections Meet to discuss paper 2: Sparta: State, Society and Values*

Mon. 10th: Athens: State and Society (to c. 500 B.C.) [DeB 83-88; Atlas 29, 34-36]

Wed. 12th: Persian Wars and Aftermath [DeB 89-93, 116; Atlas 21-25]

Fri. 14th: *Sections Meet to discuss Aesop reading. Second Quiz.*

Mon 17th: Athens in the Age of Pericles [DeB 93-95, 102-112; Atlas 44-45, 78]

Wed. 19th: Peloponnesian War and Aftermath [DeB 96-102, 112-16; Atlas 46-49, 58-63]

Fri. 21st: **FALL BREAK, NO CLASS**

Mon. 24th: Philip and Alexander [DeB 100-102, 119-122; Atlas 61-68]

Wed. 26th: The World of the Successors [DeB 122-138; Atlas 70-76]

Fri. 28th: *Sections Meet to discuss Paper 3: Alexander the Great*

Mon. 31st: **Second Midterm Exam**

Unit Three: Rome, Republic and Empire

November

Wed. 2nd: Early Rome and Italian Expansion [DeB 141-54; Atlas 82-95, 107]

Fri. 4th: The Roman Republic: Politics [DeB 154-67: focus on grasping the main features in lieu of getting bogged down in many of the details]

Mon. 7th: Army and Society in the Roman Republic [DeB 154, box on 163, diagram on 170, box on 206]

Wed. 9th: The First and Second Punic Wars: The Emergence of a Roman 'empire' [DeB 122-30, 168-76, 183-84; Atlas 70-77, 96-100, 144-45]

Fri. 11th: *Sections Meet to discuss paper 4: Slave Revolts in Sicily*

Mon. 14th: Roman Religion, Society and Values [DeB 244-60]

Wed. 16th: Turmoil: The Gracchi and Marius [DeB 176-92; Atlas 108-109]

Fri. 18th: *Sections Meet to discuss Sempronia and Turia readings. Third Quiz.*

Mon. 21st: Civil War: Sulla, Pompey and Caesar [DeB 192-202; Atlas 101-106]

Wed. 23rd: **Thanksgiving**

Fri. 25th: **Thanksgiving**

Mon. 28th: Caesar as Dictator, Augustus [DeB 202-24; Atlas 127-29]

Wed. 30th: The Roman Empire of the First Three Centuries, Part I [DeB 224-44, 265-75, 301-303; Atlas 169-71]

Fri. 2nd: *Sections Meet to discuss Paper 5: Romans and Christians*

Mon. 5th: Roman Empire of the First Three Centuries, Part II

Wed. 7th: Roman Empire: Decline and Fall? Aftermath [DeB 275-95; 304, Atlas 175-77]

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 13th at 12pm (in our regular lecture room)