

**4485 Ancient Near East and Greece**  
**Fall 2007**

Instructor: Dr. Justin Stephens

Lecture: Pafford 206, M W 12:30-1:45

Office: TLC 3244

Office Hours: M W 2-3, F 9-10; 11-12 and by appointment

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course explores civilizations in the Ancient Near East and Greece from their prehistoric beginnings up to the first centuries of the Hellenistic era and the coming of Rome. Special emphasis will be placed upon religious developments in the Ancient Near East, the intellectual developments of classical and post-classical Greece, the emergence of democracy and its expression in fifth century Athens, and the synthesis of Greek and non-Greek culture during the Hellenistic period.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who complete this course will:

- Have the ability to demonstrate both verbally and in writing a basic knowledge of Ancient Near East and Greek history.
- Have a better understanding of philosophical, religious, political, and cultural heritages that have helped to shape the modern western world.
- Learn the fundamental methods of historical inquiry.
- Have improved writing and critical thinking skills.
- Have an understanding of major historiographical trends in Greek history

**Course Requirements:**

1. In addition to attending lectures, it is critical that you carefully read all assigned readings. There will be discussion of these readings throughout the semester during lecture.
2. There will be two papers for this course. The first is a 2-3 page paper on one of Plutarch's lives. This paper is due on Wednesday, Sept. 26. There is also a 10-12 page research paper for this course. I will have additional information about the research paper at a later time.

3. There will be a midterm and final exam. Both exams will consist of short essays and at least one long essay. For both the identifications and essays, you will need to demonstrate knowledge of material from lectures and primary source readings.

**Grading:**

Class Participation: 10%

First Paper: 10%

Second Paper: 30%

Midterm: 20%

Final: 30%

**Required Texts:**

*Epic of Gilgamesh*, tr. Sanders

Pomeroy et al, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*

Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates*

Plutarch, *The Rise and Fall of Athens: Nine Greek Lives*

\*additional readings for the course will be placed on Electronic Reserve at the Library

**Miscellaneous:**

No electronic devices including cell phones and computers are to be in use during lecture.

There will be no make-up exams without prior approval.

Late papers will not be accepted without prior approval.

There will be no extra-credit.

Grade information will not be given out via email.

**Cheating:**

Cheating of any kind will result in an "F" for the course and further disciplinary action may be taken.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule:**

Week 1

(W) Aug. 15: Introduction

Week 2

(M) Aug. 20: Mesopotamia (*Epic of Gilgamesh*)

(W) Aug. 22: Egypt (TBA)

Week 3

(M) Aug. 27: Folk Movements and Iron Age Empires

(W) Aug. 29: The Hebrews (*Book of Job/Genesis* selections)

Week 4

(M) Sept. 3: No Class

(W) Sept. 5: Rediscovery of Greece

Week 5

(M) Sept. 10: Homer and the Archaic World (TBA)

(W) Sept. 12: Sparta and Athens (*Life of Solon* sect. 17-25)

Week 6

(M) Sept. 17: The Persian Wars

(W) Sept. 19 **Midterm Exam**

Week 7

(M) Sept. 24: From League to Empire (*Life of Themistocles* pp. 77-85; *Wasps*)

(W) Sept. 26: Science and Tragedy (*Antigone* selection)

Week 8

(M) Oct. 1: TBA

(W) Oct. 3: The Peloponnesian War (TBA)

Week 9

(M) Oct. 8: Democracy and Sophistry (TBA)

(W) Oct 10: Trial of Socrates (*Apology and Crito*)

Week 10:

(M) Oct. 15: Plato (TBA)

(W) Oct. 17: A Trip to Persia

Week 11

(M) Oct. 22: New World Order

(W) Oct. 24: Alexander

Week 12

(M) Oct. 29: The Hellenistic World

(W) Oct. 31: Hellenistic Synthesis?

Week 13

(M) Nov. 5: Pyrrhus and Italy

(W) Nov. 7: The Coming of Rome

Week 14

(M) Nov. 12: TBA

(W) Nov. 14: TBA

Week 15

(M) Nov. 19: TBA

Week 16

(M) Nov. 26: TBA

(W) Nov. 28 TBA

Week 17  
(M) Nov 26: TBA

**Final Examination**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 12, 11-1 pm**