



COURSE OUTLINE

THE GREEKS

The aim of this module is to give students a broad but firm grounding in the governing systems and structures of Ancient Greece, given that it has inspired and indeed constitutes the foundations of much of what we call Western Civilisation. Issues such as democracy, justice, the development of modern drama, philosophy, religion, historiography and the role of women will be raised, and where relevant and possible, supplementary materials and visits will be incorporated into the syllabus. The period under study will cover the rise and fall of Athens from the seventh to the fourth centuries BC. If specifically requested a course based on the Fall of the Roman Republic can be followed with specific focus on the years from 133 BC - 14 AD.

1. Introduction to course; Geography of Ancient Greece. Communication and early communities. Beginnings of colonization. Trade. Internal strife and disparities. Different constitutions. Rise of Tyrants.
2. The Cypselids (657 BC); Other Tyrants. Second Messenian War (640 BC). Athens: Cylon, Dacon.
3. Solon's Reforms (594BC); After Solon. Pisistratus's Rise. Pisistratus in Athens (540 BC).
4. The Peloponnesian League. Hippias. Isagoras/Cleomenes/Cleisthenes.
5. Rise of the Persian Empire. The Ionians. Cleisthenes' Reforms (508 BC).
6. Sparta & Athens Persian Involvement. Ionian Revolt (499 - 494 BC). Themistocles. Marathon (490 BC). Consequences. Xerxes.
7. Second Persian Invasion (480 BC) Thermopylae, Salamis. Plataea. Mycale. Sestos. Assessment of Greeks/Persians.
8. Formation of Delian league Athenian prominence (478 BC). Cimon's campaigns. Sparta's difficulties. Themistocles' actions. Rise of Pericles.
9. Anti-Spartan policies, Egypt, 5-year truce. Peace of Callias, Empire and 30 year Peace (445 BC). Building/colonization and Samos. Reasons for Outbreak of Peloponnesian War.
10. Peloponnesian War 431 – 404, Brief overview: Archidamian War. Peace of Nicias, Ionian War. Athenian Surrender (404 BC).

Course Aims

- To impart information about the historical period to be covered
- To develop good study practice such as note-taking, speed reading, class discussion
- To encourage critical skills through reasoning
- To teach and improve essay writing skills
- To foster an admiration for the sophistication and civilisation of the ancient world and to appreciate the relevance and application of ancient history in understanding contemporary politics.

Methods

- The tutor will ask students to take notes in seminars and tutorials as information is being taught and discussed
- Students will consolidate class knowledge by reading both primary (Greek in translation) and secondary (textbook) sources in private study time after which they should be able to explain the significance of what they have learnt
- Already taught material will always be repeated before new information is taught, thus making revision ongoing
- Students will examine photos of artefacts and archaeological discoveries relating to the period under study and will make a museum visit
- The geography of the ancient world will be studied
- Research and consolidation will be set as private study assignments as preparation for essay writing
- Essays will be written occasionally as private study assignments
- Timed essays will be written regularly during supervised progress tests
- Short classroom quiz/tests will aid revision

Outcomes

1. To produce a full dossier of notes on the period under study.
2. To demonstrate orally and in written form knowledge of the different stages of political development witnessed during three centuries of Greek history as well as a full grasp of the significance of historical events.
3. To demonstrate skills in researching the ancient sources for information.
4. To complete regular assignments set by the tutor using a range of textbooks as sources of information.

Students typically complete 4 essays and 2 tests per term in addition to regular classwork and private study assignments. These marks as a whole, combined with an assessment of student performance in class, make up the final grade for the course, as shown. Sample essay questions are included below; test questions will normally consist of document analysis, in line with those set for 'A' level examination boards.

Assessment Process Grade breakdown:

- 40% Essays
- 40% Tests
- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Attendance

Example Homework Essays

1. Why is Solon given so much credit in our understanding of the Ancient World?
2. To what extent can Cleisthenes be justifiably called “The Father of Democracy”?
3. “The defeat of the Persians came about because of their own weaknesses”. Discuss.
4. Was the Peloponnesian War inevitable?

Assessment Criteria

DISTINCTION Grade A

Student understands broad range of historical concepts, has excellent understanding of their impact in relation to given situations, and shows excellent communication skills in constructing an original and persuasive argument, with reference to a broad range of evidence

CREDIT Grade B

Student understands core historical concepts clearly, has advanced understanding of their impact in relation to given situations, and can construct a sound argument to reflect that with persuasive use of evidence.

MERIT Grade C

Student understands core historical concepts, has clear understanding of their impact in relation to given situations, and can construct an argument to reflect that knowledge accurately, with reference to a range of evidence.

PASS Grade D

Student understands basic historical concepts, has some understanding of their impact in relation to given situations, and some ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.

FAIL

None of the criteria listed above followed

Recommended Introductory Reading and Textbooks

* = Essential for personal use

Primary Sources

Herodotus	<i>The Histories</i> (Penguin)
Thucydides	<i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> (Penguin) *
Plutarch	<i>The Rise and Fall of Athens</i> (Penguin) *
Plutarch	<i>The Age of Alexander</i> (Penguin)
Xenophon	<i>A History of My Times</i> (Penguin)
Aristotle	<i>The Athenian Constitution</i> (Penguin)
Aristophanes	(Any one of the Penguin volumes)

Textbooks

P. Bradley	Ancient History: Using the Evidence	ISBN: 9780521796460
Bury and Meiggs	A History of Greece	ISBN: 9780333154939
Hammond	History of Greece	ISBN: 0198730950
Meiggs	The Athenian Empire	ISBN: 9780198148432
Ehrenberg	From Solon to Socrates	ISBN: 9780415040242
Hornblower	The Greek World	ISBN: 9780415153447
Grant	The Rise of the Greeks	ISBN: 9781857994513

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://www.bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

Or

www.Amazon.co.uk