

COURSE OUTLINE

THE ANCIENT GREEKS

This course is primarily taught as a study of ancient history, culture and society. The emphasis is on classical Greek history, given that it has inspired, and indeed constitutes the foundations of much of what we call Western civilisation.

Week One

Sources of information
Geography of the ancient world
Trade and commercial development
The rise of tyranny and ancient lawgivers

Week Two

Sparta: life and institutions
The Persian Wars
Pericles and Athens
Athens: democracy and empire

Week Three

The rivalry between Athens and Sparta
The Peloponnesian War and aftermath

Week Four

Religion and Politics
Social Classes: citizens, women, slaves, freedmen, foreigners
Role of drama
Play reading

Assignment 1: Who do you consider more important in laying the foundations for democracy: Solon or Cleisthenes? Discuss with reference to each person's achievements.

Assignment 2: Why did the Athenians and Spartans go to war against each other and with what outcome?

Recommended Reading

The following texts should be purchased before the course. Selected readings will be prescribed by the tutor as the course progresses.

Plutarch	<i>The Rise & Fall of Athens</i> (Penguin)	ISBN 978-0140441024
Aristophanes	<i>Lysistrata and Other Plays</i>	ISBN 978-0140448146
Thucydides	<i>The Peloponnesian War</i>	ISBN 978-0872203945

Additionally students may find it useful to consult one of the following textbooks:

P Bradley	<i>Ancient Greece: Using Evidence</i>	ISBN 978-0521796460
V Ehrenberg	<i>From Solon to Socrates</i>	ISBN 978-0415040242

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

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

or

www.amazon.co.uk