

Ancient Cultural and Intellectual History 510:308
Fall 2017
DC Thompson Hall 101, Thursday 10:55 AM - 1:55 PM

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In this course we will explore core aspects of cultural, religious, and intellectual developments in the classical world. We will, through a historical survey of formative ideas, find out how these ideas shaped our intellectual tradition. In doing so, we will analyze key concepts of epistemological, moral, political, and theological inquiry as well as their historical and cultural importance.

Here are a couple of questions we will explore in this course. How was our intellectual tradition formed? How do we see/understand history and culture? How do we learn to think and analyze? How was, is, and will knowledge be stored? How free are we and what does it mean to be a citizen? Be not intimidated by the title of the course or the assigned readings. Rest assured that I will guide and show you how to master this fascinating material. Get ready for an amazing exploration and kick off your Thursday with intellectual caffeine!

Books:

A Brief History of Ancient Greece, S.B. Pomeroy et al., University of Oxford Press

These Were the Romans, J. Badcock and G.I.F. Tingay, University of Oxford Press

Additional Readings through the Online Portal (Learning Management System) Sakai:
<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Basic Internet Resources:

Ancient Greece. www.ancientgreece.com

Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: www.plato.stanford.edu

The Internet Classics Archives: <http://classics.mit.edu>

Grading:

2 Reports: 20% (10% each)

2 Response Papers: 30 % (15% each)

1 Research Paper: 50%

This preliminary syllabus may change.

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Week 1

- Introduction to Course and Expectations
- Minoan and Mycenaean Greece

Week 2

Homer's Greece

What is a Hero and How Does S/He Think?

Readings: Pomeroy, *Ancient Greece*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2; *Iliad* Excerpts

Week 3

The Emergence of the Polis

Pre-Socratics (Heraclitus, Protagoras, and Democritus): Relativism and Materialism

Readings: Pomeroy, *Ancient Greece*, Chapter 3 and 5; Excerpts from Pre-Socratic Writers

Week 4

- Periclean Athens

- Socrates and the Socratic Method

- Socrates' Ethics

Readings: Pomeroy, *Ancient Greece*, Chapters 6, 7, and 9; Plato's *Meno*

Week 5

- Plato: Thoughts on Politics and Ethics

Readings: Finish or Review Pomeroy, *Ancient Greece*, Chapter 9; Plato's *Crito* and *Euthrypho*; Excerpts from Plato's *Republic*.

Week 6

- Aristotle: Thoughts on Politics and Ethics

Readings: Pomeroy, *Ancient Greece*, Chapters 11 and 12; Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 1 and 3, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books 5 and 6.

Week 7

- From Greece to Rome

- Stoics and Epicureans

Readings: Badcock and Tinglay, *These Were the Romans* (start and have finished by Week 9); Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on Stoicism and Epicureanism

Week 8

- Cicero the Philosopher and Lucretius the Poet

Readings: Excerpts from Cicero's and Lucretius *On the Nature of Things*

Week 9

- Marcus Aurelius: Emperor and Philosopher

Readings: Finish *These Were the Romans*; Excerpts from the *Meditations*

Week 10

- Alexandria and Its Intellectuals: Plotinus, Origen, and Hypatia

Readings: Excerpts on Sakai and Takács, *Hypatia*

Week 11

- Christianity
- Late Antiquity

Readings: Excerpts from Justin Martyr, Life of Perpetua, Ambrose and Symmachus.

Week 12

- Christian Thinkers: Augustine and Isidore of Seville

Readings: Augustine, *The Confessions*, Books 2, 7 and 8; Excerpts Isidore, *Etymologiae*

Week 13

- Christian Thinkers: The Cappadocian Fathers

Readings focused on education (Basil of Caesaria, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianzus)

Week 14

Reflections