

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Ancient Greece - 39189

Last update 28-10-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Lee Mordechai

Coordinator Email: lee.mordechai@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 14:30-15:30
Tuesday, 14:00-15:00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Lee Mordechai

Course/Module description:

The ancient Greek world continues to influence our world today in countless ways. Justly or not, people have idealized ancient Greek culture over the centuries since its existence. Some identify in it the most significant starting point of Western Civilization, the culture that most powerfully shapes the West and the rest of the world today. Democracy, popular politics, science, art, technology, state institutions, political freedom, reasoning, objectivity and philosophy are only some of the spheres where Greek influence is explicitly cited. Yet ancient Greek culture and thinking was also used by later societies and thinkers to justify racism, imperialism, fascism, and orientalism, legitimizing countless atrocities.

In this introductory course we will examine the origins, evolution and organization of the ancient Greek world until the end of the Hellenistic period in the 1st century BCE. We will focus on the period from the formation of the Greek city-state (polis) in the 8th century BCE until the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BCE. Through these developments we will examine Greek culture and the spread of Hellenism around the ancient world. At the same time, we will also reflect on how ancient history is constructed and examine the different sources that help us reconstruct it.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Describe the main periods in ancient Greek history
2. Identify significant events and developments in ancient Greek history.
3. Demonstrate basic knowledge of social, cultural and literary developments in ancient Greece.
4. Identify key locations in ancient Greek history.
5. Recognize primary sources (written and non-written) from ancient Greece, and analyze them at a basic level.
6. Recognize connections (real or imagined!) between ancient Greece and our contemporary world.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Ancient Greece: geography, language, sources, current relevance*
- 2. Early Greece and the Bronze Age*
- 3. The "Dark Age" and Homer*
- 4. Archaic Greece*
- 5. Sparta*
- 6. The Persian Empire*
- 7. Athens and the Greco-Persian Wars*
- 8. The Athenian Democracy*
- 9. Greece in the mid-5th c. BCE*
- 10. The Peloponnesian War*
- 11. Shifting Hegemonies*
- 12. The Rise of Macedon and Alexander the Great*
- 13. Alexander's Successors*

Required Reading:

Primary sources as instructed in class.

Additional Reading Material:

גולן, דוד. תולדות העולם ההלניסטי (מאגנס, 1983).
עמית, משה. תולדות יוון הקלאסית (מאגנס, 1985).

Briant, Pierre. From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire (Eisenbraun 2002).

Green, Peter. Alexander to Actium: The Historical Evolution of the Hellenistic Age (University of California Press, 1990).

Hanson, Victor Davis. The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece (Alfred A. Knopf, 1989).

Kennell, Nigel. Spartans: A New History (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Pomeroy, Sarah et al. Ancient Greece: A Political, Social and Cultural History, 4th edition (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Cambridge Ancient History Volumes

Eds. Boardman, John and Hammond, N.G.L., Cambridge Ancient History, Second Series, Vol. 3 part 3: The Expansion of the Greek World, Eighth to Sixth Centuries B.C. (Cambridge University Press, 1982).

Eds. Boardman, John et al., Cambridge Ancient History, Second Series, Vol. 4: Persia, Greece and the Western Mediterranean c. 525 to 479 B.C. (Cambridge University Press, 1988).

Eds. Lewis, D.M. et al., Cambridge Ancient History, Second Series, Vol. 5: The Fifth Century B.C. (Cambridge University Press, 1992).
Eds. Lewis, D.M. et al., Cambridge Ancient History, Second Series, Vol. 6: The Fourth Century B.C. (Cambridge University Press, 1994).
Eds. Walbank, F.W. et al., Cambridge Ancient History, Second Series, Vol. 7 part 1: The Hellenistic World (Cambridge University Press, 1984).

Reference works:

Eds Hornblower, Simon and Spawforth, Antony. The Oxford Classical Dictionary, 4th edition (Oxford University Press, 2012).

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 90 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 5 %
Other 5 %
Office hour visit

Additional information: