

History 2213: The Ancient Mediterranean City
May Semester 2016
Online

Instructor:

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Office Hours by Appointment Only

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Course Description: This course will examine the history of the ancient Mediterranean by examining the archaeological evidence left behind in the form of the cities of the various peoples who inhabited the region from the beginning of urbanization in Mesopotamia to Late Antiquity. Cultural and political history will be filled in by the study of primary source documents provided by the instructor.

GE Requirements Fulfilled: This course fulfills the GE requirements in Historical Study. The goal of this requirement is that students recognize how past events are studied and how they influence today's society and the human condition.

Enrollment:

"All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the semester. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student."

Instructor's Goals for the Course:

The goal of this course is for students to learn about the civilizations of the Mediterranean basin, particularly from the remains of the cities in which they lived and worked. Students will also learn basic archaeological principals and how to interpret historical documents. From this, students will also gain an understanding of "how history is made," that is, what the process is that historians go through in order to reconstruct the past. This will be accomplished primarily through discussion of primary source materials (both literary and archaeological) on a weekly basis. Finally, the exams and quizzes are intended to display students' retention of information and critical thinking and writing skills.

Departmental Goal and Learning Outcomes:

Students evaluate significant cultural phenomena and ideas in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; and interpretation and evaluation.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding.
3. Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

Required Book: The only required text for this class is *The Ancient City* by Charles Gates (Routledge, 2011: ISBN 978-0415498647). This book has been in second edition since 2011, and so it should be easy to find used copies. Because of this, the use of the first edition is not acceptable. This textbook will provide the bulk of the archaeological information on the sites we will be studying each week and is thus essential for understanding the material. Other required readings, including primary documents and articles, will be posted on Carmen.

Academic Dishonesty: It is your responsibility, as a student of this University, to avoid any kind of academic misconduct. In this class we want specifically to urge you to carefully avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is, simply, using material that you did not produce yourself without indicating its precise origin and ownership: this can mean 1) allowing someone else to write a paper or an examination for you, 2) copying and pasting something from a website and failing to mention clearly where this material is from, 3) assisting someone else to commit plagiarism by giving or selling your own work to someone else. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed, illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.

Course Structure Overview:

This course is primarily a mixture of recorded lectures and online discussion. Each day there will be a recorded lecture with slideshows for you to listen/read. There will also be primary sources posted most days that deal with the same material as the lecture that should be read in association with it. These will provide both the background for the lecture and will be the basis for online discussion. There will also be textbook readings most days to supplement the lecture and primary sources. Participation in online discussion is required and is a significant part of your grade. It is your responsibility to understand the requirements for the class by reading carefully the syllabus and any other instructional content posted on Carmen. You are also responsible for meeting all assignment deadlines.

Course Assignments:

***NB:** For the purposes of the class, a “week” runs from 12:01am on Mondays to 11:59pm on Sundays. All quizzes, forums, and exams will likewise close to new submissions at 11:59 pm on the day they are due unless otherwise noted. A “Lecture” (note the capitalization) consists of all the material presented on a given day of the course and may span multiple textbook chapters and subjects.

Start Module: The start module is a non-graded but vital component of the course. This will be the first thing you have access to on the Carmen site and **you are required to complete it no later than the first day of class**. The point of the module is to make you familiar and comfortable with taking an online class. The module will be available beginning on the Monday before the semester starts. You will be unable to access the rest of the course content until you complete the module, thus making it vital that you complete it as soon as possible. **If you do not complete the module by May 11, I will assume that you will be dropping the course.**

Discussion: Every week of class, there will be discussion forums open in Carmen for you to answer questions about that week's material. Out of the seventeen Lectures that make up this course, your responsibility is to make a post on **twelve** of them. This total does **not** include mandatory introduction post you will make as part of the Start Module. This gives you some flexibility to choose what topics on which you wish to post.

Twelve posts over roughly four weeks works out to three posts a week, which is what I'm expecting from each of you. In order to keep the discussion posts from clustering exclusively on the material from the end of each week, at least one post each week must deal with the material from the first three Lectures of the week and is due on Wednesday, with the exception of the first week. After Wednesday, those forums will be closed and you will have no chance to make a post. The remaining posts are due by Saturday of each week. You may only make one post per Lecture. For example, for the second week of class, you must post on Lectures 4, 5, and/or 6 by Wednesday. By the end of that Saturday, you must also have posted on the material from Lecture 7. If you wish, you may make all three of your posts on material from the first half of the week and be done for that week. Please see the Daily Assignments section of this syllabus for further information and the schedule of readings and discussion.

For the posts themselves, I am looking for a single post of 200-300 words (about two good paragraphs) on some aspect of the readings/lectures that interested you. Your post must draw on evidence from the readings for that week (or a previous one) and must provide some sort of opinion or observation beyond what is in the material itself. In order to keep it fair for everyone, you may not draw upon any material from outside of class, except for relevant personal experiences, which are always welcome.

Unlike other online courses you may have taken, and my own previous classes, I will not provide discussion prompts, but I instead want you to come up with your own questions and comments. I tried this last semester and it led to more organic discussion, which I think is better for all involved. Instead of answering a particular question, you will instead pick which thread you want to comment upon and post there. If you are the first person to make a post on a reading, you may say what you wish and be done. If you are not the first person to post on a source, you have to engage in some way with what has been said before. You may agree, disagree, offer a different way to look at the issue, etc. In any event, your reply must also meet all the criteria listed above. Obviously, as the week goes on, it will be more difficult to provide original insight, so it is best to post early.

If you are the first person to answer a question, you may say what you wish and be done. If you are not the first person to post on a question, you have to engage in some way with what has been said before. You may agree, disagree, offer a different way to look at the issue, etc. In any event, your reply must also meet all the criteria listed above. Obviously, as the week goes on, it will be more difficult to provide original insight, so it is best to post early.

If your post is too short, does not use any information from the week's readings, does not engage with previous posts, or is otherwise unacceptable, I will delete it and notify you. You will then have until the end of the posting period (either Wed. or Sat.) to modify your post or put up a new one. Thus, it behooves you to post earlier in the week. No late discussion posts will be accepted without a medical excuse or other valid reason.

Discussion will count for 30% of your total grade. Twelve acceptable posts by the last day of discussion will earn you a 100 discussion grade. If you only write 11 posts, you receive a 90; for 10 posts, 80; for 9 posts, 70; 8 posts 60; 7 posts 50; 6 posts 40; 5 posts 30; 4 posts 20; 3 posts 10, and under that 0.

Quizzes: There will be four quizzes throughout the semester, one at the end of every week. They will be opened from Friday morning to Sunday night. These will be administered through Carmen and will be based on the readings and lectures. You will be allowed to take each one three times, with the highest grade counting. The quizzes are randomized, so you will not receive the same questions on every attempt. You will have twenty minutes plus a one minute grace period for each attempt and Carmen will automatically give a zero to any attempt submitted after twenty-one minutes. Once the deadline passes, the quizzes are automatically closed and no late quizzes will be allowed. Taken together, all four quizzes will make up 15% of your grade. There will be **no** dropped quizzes.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will consist of a single essay question drawing on material from the first half of the class (i.e., up to and including Lecture 7). It will be open from 12:01am on May 20 to 11:59pm on May 22. You may take the exam any time during that period, although I strongly suggest not waiting until 11pm on the 22nd to do it, since the internet and Carmen do not always cooperate. On that note: **You are solely responsible for insuring you have a reliable computer and a stable internet connection before taking the test.** I will not accept any excuses based on technical difficulties, barring a Carmen system failure or power outage on campus.

Once you start the exam, you will have one attempt and one hour in which to complete it. There will be a five minute grace period provided to help prevent anyone from accidentally going over the time limit. Once that limit is exceeded, five points will be taken off the final grade, with another ten points deducted for every additional ten minutes after that. For example, an exam active for 66 minutes will get five points taken off its grade, while one that is turned in at 75 minutes will have fifteen points taken off. Anything after 95 minutes will simply not be accepted.

You will have a choice of three questions, all of which will draw upon the material from Lectures 1-7 of the course. You will answer one of the prompts with an essay based on both the primary and secondary source readings in the class. I expect a solid essay of at least four paragraphs (I don't particularly care if you have an introduction or not, but I do want a conclusion) that draws on the relevant primary source evidence to answer the question asked. I won't be looking for a particular answer, just one that is well-argued from the evidence.

The exam will be open book (this includes lectures, readings, notes, etc) but I recommend studying so that you have previous knowledge of the material and won't have to look up everything on the fly. The use of any material outside of the textbook and Carmen content is prohibited and will be punished as cheating. Citations in the essay section are appreciated but

not necessary beyond acknowledging the names or authors of the sources you are using for evidence.

I highly, highly recommend writing your essays in a separate program like Word and then pasting them into Carmen. Doing so will protect you if Carmen decides to reload the page while you are typing, which has happened to me several times while I was making the site for this course. On that note, for whatever reason, Firefox does not allow pasting into Carmen via the right click context menu, but will allow it if you use the keyboard shortcut (Ctrl+V). Dragging and dropping the text also usually works

Final Exam: The final will be traditional essay exam with two sections: a cumulative essay which will deal with some of the larger themes of the course (worth 70 points) and a shorter essay dealing exclusively with material from the second half of the course (worth thirty points). You will have two hours in which to complete it, with a five minute grace period. After that, the same penalties apply as for the midterm. The final exam will constitute 30% percent of your grade, and more information will be provided on it by the third week of class.

Extra Credit: There is no scheduled extra credit opportunity for this course this semester. This may change, and I will let you know promptly if it does.

Grade Percentage by Assignment:

Midterm: 25%

Final: 30%

Quiz Average: 15%

Discussion: 30%

Grading Scale:

I use the standard OSU grading scale, which is as follows:

A: 93-100; **A-:** 90-92.99; **B+:** 87-89.99; **B:** 83- 86.99; **B-:** 80-82.99; **C+:** 77-79.99;

C: 73-76.99; **C-:** 70-72.99; **D+:** 67-69.99; **D:** 60-66.99; **E:** 0-59.99

Grading Policy and Feedback:

Now that I've talked about your responsibilities, I'll talk a little about mine. My goal is to grade all of the major assignments within a week of the due date. Whether or not that actually happens will depend on many factors, several of which are out of my control. Nonetheless, I will try to have the exams and papers graded as quickly as possible. A few notes on how I grade:

- I will not start grading until the deadline passes and all assignments are in. This helps me avoid sample bias when I'm working out the grading scheme for that particular assignment.
- I do not use a formal rubric and thus cannot provide you with one. I find them to be too limiting and the cause of lower grades than I would otherwise give. I do have something similar that will be available to you.
- I will not listen to complaints or questions about grades until the next business day after I have returned assignments. Take the time to read over your answers and my feedback and allow any anger you might have to dissipate. Be civil when you ask about your grade for best results.

- If I agree to grade a paper again, I reserve the right to lower the grade if I find I was too generous the first time.
- Due to OSU policy, I cannot e-mail you grades. If you want to know how you did on an assignment, please check through Carmen.

The best way to get the grade you want on any given assignment is to read the instructions carefully before beginning and make sure you understand them. I am not lenient when it comes to mistakes caused by failing to follow the directions. Similarly, make sure you answer the question actually asked.

You should be to follow your own progress and grades throughout the course through Carmen. The only exception to this is discussion grades, which I will not input until the end of the semester. The system can tell you not only your grades, but also the number of times you've posted in discussion, what pages you've read on the site, etc. I highly encourage you to use these features to your advantage.

Just as all assignments are turned in through Carmen, all feedback will go through it as well. For exams, I will make my comments directly on the exam in Carmen, which you can then view. If you feel that I haven't adequately explained your grade, feel free to e-mail me and we can discuss it that way.

Late Assignment Policy:

I expect all work to be submitted in a timely manner. I understand, however, that technology doesn't always work the way we wish. The best way to avoid technical problems in this class and all other online classes is to leave yourself enough time before the deadline to submit your work that you can solve any technical problems that might arise. **The burden to do this rests entirely and solely upon on you, as will the consequence of any failure to do so.** Failing that, if you are unable to turn in an assignment before the deadline due to technical reasons, please notify me *before the deadline passes*, with your completed work attached, and we can work out an arrangement. The acceptance of assignments that are late for any other reason is solely at my discretion.

Communications Policy:

As mentioned earlier, I prefer to be contacted via e-mail. I usually have Outlook open from about 9am-5pm on weekdays. During that time, you can usually expect a reply within one to two hours. Anything sent after 5pm will be responded to the next morning. The exception to this rule is the weekends. I will likely not respond to anything sent after 5pm on Saturday or anytime on Sunday until the following Monday. Feel free to send me e-mails at that time or post on the forums, just don't expect a prompt reply. If you ask me something that will take time to look up or that I don't think I can do within a twelve hour timeframe, I will acknowledge that I received your e-mail and let you know when I think I will have your answer. Discussion board posts are likewise sent to my e-mail, and will be answered within the same timeframe.

I am also willing to Skype (or equivalent) by appointment, and can do so pretty much anytime during my normal working hours throughout the week. If you would like to communicate that way, please e-mail me, and we can set upon an appointment. Similarly, office hours are by appointment only and preferably only for those things which can't be worked out

any other way. My office is in Dulles Hall 009, which is in the basement. When you come into Dulles Hall, take the elevators on the left to the basement, turn left, and knock on the door by the water fountain. Again, I would prefer to deal with things through e-mail or discussion forums and I've become quite skilled at doing so.

I will be communicating with all of you as a class primarily through the lectures and the Carmen newsfeed. If I need to get some information out to you quickly, I will do so through mass e-mail, but I will try not to abuse that privilege. **Always make sure to check the Carmen homepage and the activities section of the Lectures to be fully up to date on what is going on in the class.** Missing an assignment because you were not aware of it is not a valid excuse.

Daily Assignments:

Every day, there will be three components that need to be completed: the textbook readings, the online primary sources, and the recorded lecture. There are additionally discussion and quiz components that also must be accomplished on a weekly basis. All assignments except for the online primary source readings are listed below and for each Lecture you will watch the corresponding lecture. The assignments listed on the Lecture pages take precedence over the syllabus if there is any conflict.

Lecture 1 (Wed, May 11): Introduction; Prehistory

- Complete the Start Module
- Gates: Introduction and chapter 1

Lecture 2 (Thurs, May 12): Bronze Age Mesopotamia

- Gates: Chapters 2,3

Lecture 3 (Fri, May 13): Bronze Age Egypt

- Gates: Chapters 5, 6 (we will not be reading chapter 4)
- Posts for Lectures 1-3 due Sat, May 14
- Quiz 1 open until Sun, May 15

Lecture 4 (Mon, May 16): Bronze Age Aegean

- Gates: Chapter 7

Lecture 5 (Tues, May 17): Bronze Age Anatolia

- Gates: Chapter 8

Lecture 6 (Wed, May 18): The Wine Dark Sea

- Gates: Chapters 9, 11
- Posts for Lectures 4-6 due

Lecture 7 (Thurs, May 19): Iron Age Near East

- Gates: Chapter 10
- Posts for Lectures 7 due Sat, May 21
- Midterm open May 20-22
- Quiz 2 open until Sun, May 22

Lecture 8 (Mon, May 23): Early Iron Age Greece

- Gates: Chapter 12

Lecture 9 (Tues, May 24): Archaic Age Greek Cities and Sanctuaries

- Gates: Chapters 13, 15

Lecture 10 (Wed, May 25): Athens and Sparta

- Gates: Chapters 14, 16
- Discussion for Lectures 8-10 due

Lecture 11 (Thurs, May 26): Athenian Culture

- Gates: None

Lecture 12 (Fri, May 27): Late Classical and Hellenistic Ages

- Gates: Chapters 17, 18
- Quiz 3 open until Sun, May 29
- Discussion for Lectures 11-12 due Sat, May 28

Lecture 13 (Mon and Tues, May 30-31): Greeks and Etruscans in Italy

- Gates: Chapter 19

Lecture 14 (Wed, June 1): The Roman Republic and the Age of Augustus

- Gates: Chapters 20, 21
- Discussion for Lectures 13-14 due

Lecture 15 (Thurs, June 2): The Empire and its Emperors

- Gates: Chapters 22, 23

Lecture 16 (Fri, June 3): The Roman Provinces

- Gates: Chapter 24
- Discussion for Lectures 15-16 due Sat, June 4
- Quiz 4 open until Sun, June 5

Lecture 17 (Mon, June 6): The Empire and its Emperors

- Gates: Chapter 25
- Discussion for Lecture 17 due Tues, June 7
- Final Exam open from Tues, June 7 to Thurs, June 9

Mechanics of an Online Course:

Below is some hopefully helpful information on navigating the online format of this class. I've tried to make the course as easy as possible to navigate, but in case you can't find something, please refer to the relevant section below.

Lectures and Primary Sources: The lectures and primary source readings are organized by weekly modules, which you can find under the Content tab in Carmen. Each week is then divided into sub-modules which contain a Lecture and the primary source material that go with that Lecture. In addition to the Lecture sub-modules, each week will also have an activities sub-module which will contain links to the discussion forums for that week as well as any quizzes, exams, or other assignments. This sounds more complicated than it actually is, and I expect all of you will figure it out quickly once you see it on Carmen.

Start Module: You will not have access to any of the regular content and activities until you complete the Start Module. This will be at the top of the list on the left-hand side when you click on the Content tab, and I'll also include a link on the news feed. As a reminder, you will have until May 11th to complete the activities in the module, although I highly recommend doing so before class starts. If you do not complete it by May 11th, I will assume you plan on dropping the course. The instructions for the module are located in the module itself.

Course Documents: This module can also be found under the Content tab and will contain an updated copy of the syllabus, as well as information on the midterm, finals, etc. I will let you know through the news feed when I post something here other than the syllabus and welcome letter, which will be available from the beginning.

Activities: If you don't want to use the links for whatever reasons, you can find quizzes and the discussion forums under the Activities tab in Carmen. Click on that and select either Discussion to see all the available forums, or Quizzes to see active quizzes and exams.

Discussion Forums: In addition to the weekly discussion forum, I've also created a forum called "Heckle the Historian" where you can ask any questions you have about the course, whether it be a concern about the way the class is being run or a question about some of the content.

Timing and Availability: As mentioned above, the course is arranged by weeks and contents and activities will only be available and/or visible for certain periods of time. Activities such as quizzes and exams will only be visible during the window for which they are active. Discussion forums will be visible from the time they are active until the end of the semester, although you will be unable to post after the deadline on them as closed. Lecture content (i.e. lectures and readings) will be likewise be accessible from the time it activates until the end of the course for reference purposes. Below is a list of when things will be available/active.

- Lecture content will be visible on the Friday before that week starts and remain visible for the whole semester. For instance, the Lectures for week 2 will be visible starting at 12:01am on the Friday of week 1.

- Discussion forums will be visible and unlocked for new posts on 12:01am on the Monday of its week and be locked at 11:59pm on the Wednesday or Saturday they are due. Visible forums will remain so for the whole semester.

Preventable Problems in an Online Course: The internet can be fickle and Capricious, and this means online classes have some special problems that don't plague those in meatspace. The best way to avoid technical problems in this class and all other online classes is to leave yourself enough time before the deadline to submit your work that you can solve any technical problems that might arise. At the risk of repeating myself, **The burden to do this rests entirely and solely upon on you, as will the consequence of any failure to do so.** To borrow the old saying, "Your failure to plan does not constitute an emergency on my part." As I mentioned in the first section of the syllabus, if you do encounter technical problems that keep you from completing or turning in an assignment on time, please notify me immediately. I may not respond, but at least there will be a record. If you wait until after the deadline to contact me, it will be up to my discretion as to whether or not I accept your assignment.