

CL1003 Introduction to Greek and Roman History

Course Organiser: Dr Claire Taylor

Duration of Course: All year

Contact Hours: 2 lectures p/w

Weighting: 10 ECTS

CL1063 Greek History (Semester 1: 5 ECTS)

CL1064 Roman History (Semester 2: 5 ECTS)

Description: This course provides an introductory survey of the history of the Greek and Roman world, from the Greek Archaic age to the death of Augustus. The main trends and issues of this period will be explored such as colonisation, imperialism, war, the Athenian invention of democracy, the rise of Alexander, the emergence of Rome as a major imperial power.

Recommended Books:

The available bibliography on Greek and Roman History is very large and the individual works can vary in terms of level and coverage. During the course, we will recommend you look at a number of books, but if you wish to buy a book we recommend the following:

For the Greek section of the course:

S. B. Pomeroy, S. M. Burstein, W. Donlan, J. Tolbert Roberts, *A Brief History of Greece. Politics, Society and Culture*, Oxford 2004.

For the Roman section of the course:

M. T. Boatwright, D. J. Gargola, R. J. Talbert, *The Romans from Village to Empire. A History of Ancient Rome from Earliest times to Constantine*, Oxford 2004.

GREEK BIBLIOGRAPHY

** especially recommended

ANCIENT SOURCES (in translation)

** Herodotus, *The Histories* (5th century BC);

** Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (5th century BC)

** Plutarch, *The rise and fall of Athens: nine Greek lives* (AD 46 - 120)

[essential reading: all available as Penguin classics and in the Loeb Classical Library editions]

SOURCE BOOKS (collections of selected documents in translation)

** M. Dillon & L. Garland, *Ancient Greece: Social and Historical Documents from Archaic Times to the death of Socrates*. London 1994; 2nd edition [highly recommended; an excellent collection of sources with informative discussion]

M. Crawford and D. Whitehead, *Archaic and Classical Greece*, 1983

M. M. Austin, *The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest*, 1981

GENERAL REFERENCE

N. G. L. Hammond (ed), *Atlas of the Greek and Roman World in Antiquity*, 1981

P. Levi, *Atlas of the Greek World*, Oxford 1984

A. Spawforth and S. Hornblower, *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, Oxford 3rd edition 1996

** G. Speake (ed), The Penguin Dictionary of Ancient History, 1994
R. J. A. Talbert, Atlas of Classical History, 1985

ROMAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANCIENT SOURCES in translation and source books

The major sources Sallust, Livy, Dionysios of Halikarnassos (1st century BC), Plutarch (1st-2nd AD), Dio Cassius (3rd century AD) will all be found in the Loeb Classical Library and Penguin Classics

Selections from the literary sources and from documents are translated in:

K. Christolm and J. Ferguson, Rome: the Augustan Age: a source book, Oxford, 1981.

N. Lewis and M. Reinhold, Roman Civilisation: selected readings, vol. 1 2nd ed. 1990.

J.-A. Shelton, As the Romans did: a sourcebook in Roman Social History, Oxford, 1988.

ATLASES AND GENERAL REFERENCE

T. Cornell and J. Matthews, Atlas of the Roman World, London, 1982.

N. L. Hammond, Atlas of the Greek and Roman World in Antiquity, 1981.

A. Spawforth and S. Hornblower, The Oxford Classical Dictionary, Oxford 3rd edition 1996

** G. Speake (ed), The Penguin Dictionary of Ancient History, 1994

R. J. A. Talbert, Atlas of Classical History, 1985

Library Work

You must back up your lecture notes by doing the recommended reading. It is advisable to do this week by week. You should also read some of the works of the major historians such as Herodotus, Thucydides and Livy, translations of which are readily available in Penguin Classics. Guidance will be given in lectures.

Course Aims

- sound factual knowledge of events and trends - what happened? when and where?
- basic knowledge of the sources - how do we know?
- ability to analyse the major issues for yourself - how and why did things happen?
- ability to communicate the above in clear and concise written format