



ANCIENT GREECE
HTS 302B

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Core Impacts

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Course Description

This course surveys the Greek world from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period. We will work with primary sources to explore the most important political, social, and cultural institutions of Ancient Greece. We will read canonical works of literature, history, and philosophy. We will also uncover voices less well heard over the centuries, be it because of prejudice or marginalization, or because of patchy transmission. A “Reacting To The Past” role-playing game unit will give us an opportunity to explore the structure, advantages, challenges, and limitations of Athenian democracy, the world’s first democratic government.

Course Objectives

This course fulfills the **USG Social Sciences IMPACTS area** learning outcome: “Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economics, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.”

Students will gain an understanding of ancient Greek society and culture, and the transformations the Greek world underwent up to the time of the Roman conquest. Students will be able to explain the emergence and development of ancient democracy from a political, economic, and social perspective. Stepping outside the world of Ancient Greece, students will be able to discuss the global connections that influenced the development of Greek culture, and the ways in which the Greek world has shaped Western culture. More generally, students will learn to ask relevant questions about the history of the ancient world and to work with primary and secondary source material in a responsible manner. In preparing for class and completing the required assignments students will improve their critical reading, research, and academic writing skills.

Materials

Required books*

Sarah Pomeroy, Stanley Burstein, Walter Donlan, Jennifer Tolbert Roberts, and David Tandy, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*, 4th edition, ISBN 978-0190925307

Josiah Ober, Naomi J. Norman, Mark C. Carnes, *The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 BC*, 4th edition (**important!** Major changes make any other edition unusable), ISBN 978-0393938876

*All other required materials on the course calendar can be found through the listed links or in.pdf format on Canvas.

Recommended books:

Plutarch, *Greek Lives*, ISBN 978-0199540051

Plato, *The Republic*, ISBN 978-0140455113

Requirements

Participation in class discussion. **NB: This is NOT a “sage on the stage” course. Discussion will be central to most course sessions. There are mandatory weekly reading assignments of considerable complexity. You will NOT do well in this course by skimming the assigned daily readings 30 mins before class. Assigned readings must be done prior to each class; this is essential to meaningful participation in class discussion.** Participation rubric is available on canvas. **20%**

Quizzes and/or short writing assignments – **30%** (see course schedule for dates). Lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Reacting To The Past Game Unit – **20%** (participation in the game and 2-3 speeches)

Presentation (connected with the final project) – **10%**

Sign-up sheet for presentations will be circulated during week 2.

Final project – **20%**

Pass/fail: **transliteration test** – you will be required to study the Greek alphabet and asked to transliterate 10-15 short phrases; there will be a good number of opportunities throughout the semester to pass the transliteration test.

Policy on absences

Attendance is recorded daily. You are allowed two unexcused absences and one make-up quiz. For every additional unexcused absence you will lose ¼ of your participation grade. Being late for two classes will count as one unexcused absence. Excused absence=**documented** illness, **documented** emergency, and Institute-approved absences; some examples of absences that will **not** be excused: travel outside of Institute programs, errands, work-/internship-/interview-related absences).

Course Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Background Readings</i>	<i>Primary Source Readings</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Week 1					
Wednesday	08/26	Introductions; course overview; discussion of syllabus; the Greek world in the Bronze Age	Chapter 1, 14-40		
Friday	08/28	Iliad	Chapter 2, 43-68	Iliad, Books 1; 2.1-485; 6.283-631 https://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html	
Week 2					
Wednesday	09/02	Iliad		Iliad, Books 16.1-173, 414-598; 1017; 18.1-429; 22.1-476; 24.1-223 and 550-944 https://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html	Quiz #1

Friday	09/04	Odyssey		Odyssey, Book 1; 9-12 http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.html	
Week 3					
Wednesday	09/09	Odyssey		Odyssey, Books 13; 19; 21-23 http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.html	Quiz #2
Friday	09/11	Archaic Greece: Hesiod, Alcaeus, Sappho	Chapter 3, 71-97	Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i> , verses 1-275 + excerpts in Pomeroy, p. 83-84 Alcaeus on Canvas Sappho	
Week 4					
Wednesday	09/16	Sparta	Chapter 4	Plutarch, <i>Life of Lycurgus</i>	
Friday	09/18	Growth of Athens	Chapter 5, 127-143	Plutarch, <i>Life of Solon</i> , ch. 13-28	Quiz #3
Week 5					

Wednesday	09/23	Persian Wars	Chapter 5, 143-159	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> – canvas	Quiz #4
Friday	09/25	Athenian Empire; Democracy	Chapter 6, 161-172	<i>The Athenian Constitution</i>	Athenian democracy worksheet
Week 6					
Wednesday	09/30	Life in the Polis	Chapter 7	Euripides, <i>Medea</i> – canvas OR Aristophanes, <i>The Wasps</i> - canvas	
Friday	10/02	Peloponnesian Wars	Chapter 8, 231-259	Thucydides - canvas	Quiz #5
Week 7					
Wednesday	10/07	RTTP prep		Ober, Core Texts, p. 95-170 Role assignments; setup	
Friday	10/09	RTTP prep		Ober, Core Texts, p. 171-235 Factions meet	Quiz #6
Week 8					
Wednesday	10/14	RTTP – 1st assembly		Xenophon, Hellenica in Core Texts, 226-235.	

		Reconciliation agreement			
Friday	10/16	RTTP – 2nd assembly Electorate		Plato, Republic in Core Texts	
Week 9					
Wednesday	10/21	RTTP – 3rd assembly Social Welfare		Plato, Republic in Core Texts	
Friday	10/23	RTTP – Panhellenic festival			
Week 10					
Wednesday	10/28	RTTP – Trial day		Plato, Apology	
Friday	10/30	RTTP – 5th assembly Governing Council			
Week 11					

Wednesday	11/04	RTTP – 6th assembly Restoration of Empire			
Friday	11/06	RTTP – Post-mortem discussion			
Week 12					
Wednesday	11/11	The Fourth Century		Plato's Symposium (on Canvas)	
Friday	11/13	Macedonians; Alexander the Great	Chapter 10, 297-317 Chapter 11, 318-345	Plutarch, <i>Life of Alexander</i> Chapters: 1-11, 14-25, 31, 34, 36, 38, 40-43, 45, 57-71, 75-77	Quiz #7
Week 13					
Wednesday	11/18	Hellenistic world; conclusion		Selections on Canvas	
Friday	11/20	Presentations I			
Week 14					

Wednesday	12/02	Presentations II			
Friday	12/04	Presentations III			

Grading scale

90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech [Academic Honor Code](#) . **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. According to our Academic Honor Code, plagiarism is the “submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.” Use of AI-generated content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism will be a “0” grade for the assignment/test in question. A repeat offense will result in a failing grade for the course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity ([see process here](#)).**

Accommodations

Support for students with disabilities: Please discuss your ODS-approved accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester so we can plan for any necessary adjustments to course requirements.

Student/Faculty Conduct

Please refer to the [Georgia Tech Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#).