

CLAS 1270: Introduction to Ancient Greek Culture

Course Syllabus



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to this course on Greek culture and civilization!

This course is described in The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar as follows:

Ancient archaeological and literary evidence (in English translation) is the basis for a survey of the major social, political, religious, intellectual, artistic and literary institutions and achievements of the Greeks from the Bronze Age to the early Roman Imperial Period. The Greeks are studied in the context of the ancient Mediterranean world but also with reference to their continuing contributions to world civilization. This first-year university course is intended for anyone who wants a general overview of Greek civilization and culture: university students who are enrolled in a degree program and members of the community at large. There are no prerequisites, apart from your interest in the subject and a willingness to devote time and energy to the topic.

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- outline major features of the geography, mythology, political and cultural history, art, and literature of Greece;
- describe what life was like in ancient Greece;
- discuss the connection of ancient Greek civilization with other contemporary civilizations;
- discuss the connection of ancient Greek civilization with our modern society;
- analyze the perspective of a marginal group in Greek society.
- evaluate primary source materials related to aspects of Greek society.

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the University of Manitoba Bookstore. Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

- Sansone, David. *Ancient Greek Civilization*. (2nd ed.) Malden: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2009. 978-1-4051-6732-1
- Fagles, Robert (trans.) *Homer: The Odyssey*. New York: Penguin Classics, 1997. 978-0-1402-6886-7
- Roisman, Hanna (trans.) *Sophocles: Electra*. Newburyport: Focus Classical Library, 2008. 978-1-58510-281-5

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Online Resources

You will find many Internet web sites about ancient Greece, and some may appear as suggested readings or resources in the units. That said, many internet resources on Greece were not created by scholars, and will often contain erroneous or only partial information, even if they were created with the best of intentions. Be sure to check who created the website you are consulting, and for what purpose. If the page was not created by a scholar in the field, or does not cite its sources, or does not list its contributors at all, be especially careful or avoid using the source entirely. There are plenty of other good sources out there. Here are a few websites that provide good content for CLAS 1270 as a whole:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/> - This site contains images and texts (in English translation and in the original language) from both ancient Greece and Rome.

<http://www.stoa.org> – This site collects a lot of different resources concerning either ancient Greece or Rome.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Overview

This course is comprised of nine units.

TOPICS

- **Unit 1** Bronze Age Greece
- **Unit 2** Iron Age Greece
- **Unit 3** Homeric Epic
- **Unit 4** Archaic Greece
- **Unit 5** Philosophy and the city-state
- **Unit 6** Greek Tragedy
- **Unit 7** 5th century Athens
- **Unit 8** The Fourth Century
- **Unit 9** The Hellenistic World and Beyond

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Each unit contains self-test questions to help you review the material.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

An assignment is to be completed and submitted at the end of units 3, 6, and 9. Submit the assignments by the due dates listed below. Your assignments will be graded and sent back to you so that you may benefit from the comments for your next assignment.

Distribution of Marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	25%
Assignment 3	25%
Final examination	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Letter grade	Percentage grade	Description
A+	93 – 100	Exceptional
A	86 – 92.5	Excellent
B+	79 – 85.5	Very Good
B	72 – 78.5	Good

C+	65 – 71.5	Satisfactory
C	58 – 64.5	Adequate
D	50 – 57.5	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Assignments

Each assignment is briefly described here.

- **Assignment 1:** Your first assignment will ask you to analyze the Odyssey in relation to the movie O Brother, Where art thou?
- **Assignment 2:** Your second assignment will focus on Sophocles' play Electra. Your paper will be reviewed by a class peer before final submission.
- **Assignment 3:** Your third assignment will give you the opportunity to create a blog post from the perspective of a member of ancient Greek society.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

See the schedule and the course announcements for specific due dates.

Ensure that the assignment arrives by the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been made. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor as soon as possible before the due date.

Examination

The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare an exam location.** The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

There will be three parts to the final exam. The first section will give you a list of ten terms, of which you will choose and identify six. Each identification should be about two-three sentences in length. The second section of the exam will give you a series of images drawn from the images discussed either in the textbook or in the course manual. You will be given six images and asked to identify and discuss the significance of four of them in a paragraph of about five-six sentences. The final portion of the exam will give you five essay questions, of which you will have to choose and answer two. The essays will ask you to draw on your knowledge of Greek society more broadly and bring together ideas from multiple units. You can prepare for the final examination by doing the self-answer questions and assignments carefully. The final examination will have the following grading structure:

Essay & Short Answers	Value
Short Answers	24%
Images	16%
Essay #1	30%
Essay #2	30%

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM PREPARATION

Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, because the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open-book, they do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires, nor are they limited to a specific time period. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and

underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination. Please keep all this in mind as you prepare for the examination.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Examination Impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (DE) STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- **Contact Distance and Online Education**
- **Distance and Online Education Student Handbook**
- **Distance and Online Education Website**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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