

[TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE]

**26:510:537 Problems in Ancient History:  
Greek and Roman Historians and Historiography (Fall 2014)**

*Course Time:* Wednesdays, 5:30pm – 8:00pm

*Location:* Conklin Hall 447

*Instructor & Contact Information:* Prof. G.D. Farney (Office = Conklin 309;

Of. Phone = 973-353-3897; Email = gfarney@rutgers.edu)

*Office Hours:* TBA and By Appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:**

This course will examine the process of writing history in the Greek and Roman worlds, and the value of the works of ancient historians for studying Greek and Roman history. We will read a wide variety of history in its sub-genres (annalistic, ethnography, geography, biography and contemporary history) and historians in the course of the class, including Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius, Sallust, Livy, Tacitus, Suetonius, Plutarch and Procopius. We will also read a selection of modern secondary literature about ancient historiography.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

*Class Participation: 20%*

Every student must email me by 1:00pm on the day of class at least three thoughtful questions about the up-coming class-day's readings and topics. We will discuss some of the questions raised during the course of the class-period. The insightfulness of your questions and your participation in discussion will determine this aspect of your grade.

*Two Short Review Papers: 20% Each*

These short papers (5-7 pages) will review the readings covered during one week of the course, subject to approval.

*Final Take-Home Exam / Essay: 40%*

This will take the form of a cumulative essay paper. On the last day of class, I will give you choices from a few of the themes that we have discussed during the course of the seminar. You will base your argument on our primary source readings and opinions of the secondary literature.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

**Translations of Ancient Authors:** [you should acquire copies of the following books for use in the course. **NB** I list the most common English title for the work (often from the Penguin Edition), but the work may exist under another English title--ask me if you have any questions. Also, you should be able to find most of these works in libraries and some in e-versions on the internet.]

- 1). Herodotus, Histories.
- 2). Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War.
- 3). Polybius, Histories or Rise of the Roman Empire (the last is the Penguin title).
- 4). Livy, The First Five Books of his Annals or The Early History of Rome, Books I-V (the last is the Penguin title).
- 5). Sallust, The Jugurthine War / The Conspiracy of Cataline or Cataline's War, The Jugurthine War, Histories (both of these titles have been used by Penguin).
- 6). Tacitus, The Annals of Imperial Rome.
- 7). Suetonius, The Twelve Caesars.
- 8). Plutarch, The Rise and Fall of Athens: Nine Greek Lives (the Penguin title).
- 9). Procopius, The Secret History.

**Required Books:**

- 1) Buckley, T. Aspects of Greek History, 750 – 323 BC <2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.> (New York: Routledge, 2010).
- 2). Any general Roman history: e.g. Michael Grant, History of Rome; Ward, Heichelheim and Yeo, History of the Roman People; T. Boatwright, The Romans, From Village to Empire; D. Potter, Ancient Rome: A New History, etc.

**E-Reserves:** other materials will be on course's Blackboard site. They are noted as such on the “Weekly Schedule” below.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:**

The following items may help you in your reading and research. Some can be found in Dana Library, and I have listed their locations and call numbers with their titles.

**OCD** = Oxford Classical Dictionary <3rd Ed>, Oxford. Dana Reference DE5 .O9 1996 [As the name implies, it is a dictionary of people, places, ideas and terms dealing with the Greek and Roman worlds. It is a very useful tool for scholars of all levels. Dana and the other Rutgers libraries have copies of the 1st and 2nd editions of this which can be checked out of the library.]

**CAH** = Cambridge Ancient History <2nd Ed.>, Cambridge. Dana Reference D57 .C32 1982 [A multi-volume work covering the history of the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. They are arranged in chronological order, and the period and civilization covered should be listed on the spine of the book. They are useful if you need clarification on some points of history of the periods in question. As with the OCD, the 1st edition of the volumes can be checked out of the various Rutgers libraries.]

**Landmark Herodotus and How & Wells** = Strassler, R.B. (Ed.) The Landmark Herodotus (New York 2000) [translation, notes, maps, and many appendices to supplement reading Herodotus] Rutgers Alexander and Camden DF229.T55C7 1996. An older version of this is W.W. How & J. Wells (Edd.) A Commentary on Herodotus (Oxford 1928) [In all Rutgers libraries, including Dana: PA4004.H6 1928 Vols.1-2--N.B. much of How & Wells assumes you have some knowledge of Greek]

**Landmark Thucydides and other Commentaries** = Strassler, R.B. & Hanson, V.D. (Edd.) (1996) The Landmark Thucydides: a comprehensive guide to the Peloponnesian War, New York. Camden DF229 T55 C7 1996. [A useful tool for research on Thucydides and the War. If you want more, see D. Cartwright (1997), A Historical Commentary on Thucydides, Ann Arbor in Alex. Library DF229.T6C37 1997 (meant to be a companion to the Penguin edition) and the older Gomme, A.W. (1959), A Historical Commentary on Thucydides, Oxford; Dana has a set of Gomme at PA4461 .G6 1959 vol. 1-5.]

**Loeb Classical Library.** A modern collection of ancient Greek and Latin texts that have the ancient language on the left and an English translation on the right. Green-bound books are Greek texts and red-bound are Latin. The series, put out by Harvard University Press since the early 1900s, covers all major ancient authors and most of the lesser known. Dana Library 2nd Floor Stacks has many volumes of these: Greek begins at call number PA3612 and Latin at PA6156, and authors are in alphabetical order; duplicate volumes are also scattered in the PA stacks. A great research tool, especially if you don't know the ancient languages well or at all.]

**RE** = Wissowa, G. (Ed.) Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft <2nd Ed.> (Stuttgart 1894-1967). A nearly complete set at Dana Reference DE5 .P33 [In German. Also just called the "Pauly-Wissowa". A multi-volume encyclopedia of nearly every ancient topic imaginable. E.g. it lists nearly every person from the classical world mentioned in a literary source and many from inscriptions. A "kleiner Pauly", an abridged version, also exists. There is now a **NRE** ("neue Pauly"); though not as exhaustive in scope, it intends to fill in gaps missed by the **RE** and update older entries.]

**Bryn Mawr Classical Review.** This is an excellent, widely-used on-line journal devoted to reviews for books on all aspects of the ancient Mediterranean world. This is often a good first place to stop to check out a book (those since 1990) before you read it: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/>

**Cambridge Translated Documents Series.** The following books contain an assortment of primary sources in translation. They are particularly useful for our purposes since they also translate important inscriptions.

**Fornara, C.W.** (1983) Archaic Times to the End of the Peloponnesian War, Cambridge. [has great appendices on Athenian political system]

**Harding, P.** (1985) From the End of the Peloponnesian War to the Battle of Ipsus, Cambridge.

**Burstein, S.M.** (1985) The Hellenistic Age from the Battle of Ipsos to the Death of Kleopatra VII, Cambridge.

**R. M. Ogilvie, A Commentary on Livy, Books 1-5 (London 1965).** PA6459 .O4. [A historical commentary on these books of Livy. Still a standard. Assumes you know Latin, but still quite useful.]

**R. Syme, Sallust (Oxford 1964).** PA6656 .S9 [Collections of historical essays about Sallust and his works.]

**R. Syme, Tacitus (Oxford 1958).** PA6716 .S9 [Collections of historical essays about Tacitus and his works, in 2 volumes.]

**F.W. Walbank, A Historical Commentary on Polybius (Oxford 1957-1979).** PA4391.Z2 W3 [An exhaustive historical commentary on Polybius in 3 volumes]

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

### **I. Wed 3 Sept: Introduction to Course**

**Read:** Buckley, Chs. 2-10 (for this and next time)

### **II. Wed 10 Sept: Herodotus I**

**Read:** Herodotus, Books 1-6

Buckley, Chs. 2-10 (complete this)

### **III. Wed 17 Sept: Herodotus II**

**Read:** Herodotus, Books 7-9

Hendrik, “Literary Texts” [blackboard]

Baldwin, “How credulous was Herodotus?” [blackboard]

Armayor, “Did Herodotus ever go to Egypt?” [blackboard]

Malkin “‘Tradition’ in Herodotus: the foundation of Cyrene” [blackboard]

Fowler, “Herodotus and Athens” [blackboard]

### **IV. Wed 24 Sept: Thucydides I**

**Read:** Thucydides, Books 1-4

Badian, “Thucydides and the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War: a historian’s brief” [blackboard]

Buckley, Chs. 11-22 (for this time and next)

### **V. Wed 1 Oct: Thucydides II**

**Read:** Thucydides, Books 5-8

Crane, “The Melian Dialogue” [blackboard] (this is just a chapter of his book; for a review of the whole book, see <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/1999/1999-08-05.html>)

Raaflaub, “Thucydides on democracy and oligarchy” [blackboard]

### **VI. Wed 8 Oct: Xenophon and Sparta**

**Read:** Buckley, “Ch. 23, Spartan Foreign Policy, 404 - 387/6 BC” and “Ch. 24, The Hegemony of Thebes, 371-362 BC” [read this **first** before other material for background]

Xenophon, Agesilaus [blackboard]

Xenophon, Spartan Constitution [blackboard]

Flower, “The invention of tradition in classical and hellenistic Sparta” [blackboard]

### **VII. Wed 15 Oct: Polybius and the First Roman Historians**

**Read:** Polybius, Book 1, Book 6.2-58, Book 12.3-28a

Walbank, “Polybius” [blackboard]

Badian, “The Early Historians” [blackboard]

### **VIII. Wed 22 Oct: Livy I**

**Read:** Livy, Books 1-2  
Walsh, “Livy” [blackboard]

**IX. Wed 29 Oct: Livy II**

**Read:** Livy, Books 3-5  
TBA [blackboard]

**X. Wed 5 Nov: Sallust**

**Read:** Sallust, Conspiracy of Catatline and Jugurtha  
Earl, “Political Thought of Sallust” [blackboard]

**XI. Wed 12 Nov: Tacitus**

**Read:** Tacitus, Annals Books 1-6  
Kraus & Woodman, “Tacitus” [blackboard]

**XII. Wed 19 Nov: Tacitus and Ethnography**

**Read:** Tacitus, Annals Books 9-16  
Tacitus, Germania and Tacitus, Selection from Histories on the Jews [on the same e-reserve]  
Isaac, “Proto-racism in Graeco-Roman antiquity” [blackboard]

**XIII. Wed 26 Nov: Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)**

**XIV. Wed 3 December: Plutarch and Suetonius**

**Read:** Plutarch, Lives of Solon, Cimon and Alcibiades  
Suetonius, Lives of Julius Caesar, Augustus and Gaius (also known as Caligula)

**XV. Wed 10 Dec: Procopius**

**Read:** Procopius, Secret History  
TBA [blackboard]

**Final Take-Home Exam / Essay: Due 9pm, Wednesday, December 17, by email to me by .doc., .docx, or .pdf attachment (gfarney@rutgers.edu)**