

26:510:537 Problems in Ancient History: Athenian Democracy (Fall 2019)

Course Time: Mondays, 5:30pm – 8:00pm *Course Location:* Conklin Hall 338
Instructor: G. D. Farney (Office = Conklin 309, 973-353-3897; Email = gfarney@rutgers.edu)
Office Hours: Mon. 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Wed. 11:00am to 12:00pm, & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the history and development of the Classical Athenian Democracy (primarily of the fifth and fourth centuries down to 336 BCE). Special attention will be paid to: the origins of Greek democracy; the precise functioning of the Athenian democracy; the relationship between democracy and empire in the Greek world; the exclusion of democracy from “others;” and Greek intellectual opinion of democracy. We will be examining a variety of ancient sources as our primary sources (in English translation): works of Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Aeschylus, Euripides, Plutarch, Demosthenes, Plato, Lysias and Xenophon will be among these.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Class Participation: 25%

Every student must email me by noon (12:00pm) on the day of class at least three thoughtful questions about the up-coming class-day's readings and topics. We will use 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. **Students should start to do this with the very first day of class (Mon. Sept. 9).**

Two Short Review Papers: 25% Each

These short papers (ca. 5 pages) will review the readings in the secondary literature. You'll be asked to analyze 3 pieces of literature that we've read up to the paper being due. *Only secondary literature marked with an asterisk in the syllabus is eligible for analysis.* The due dates of the reviews are marked on the syllabus. We will discuss these in more depth approximately two weeks before they are due.

Take-Home Exam / Essay: 25%

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.

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR GRADE:

Attendance and Persistent Lateness: class attendance and participation is essential to this course, given that regular work on languages is the only way to learn them properly. Therefore, absences should be kept to a minimum. Accordingly, the maximum number of unexcused absences allowed is one, beyond which there will be a grade penalty of -5% of the total grade for the course for each day past one.

There will also be a grade penalty for persistent lateness, disruption of class, or leaving the class early without prior permission.

Academic Integrity: As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT:

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations: Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

Counseling Services: Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.

Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries: Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

Pregnant Students: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

Students Who Experience Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Learning Resources:

Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>

Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847

nwc@rutgers.edu

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

COURSE MATERIALS: all on Blackboard

This course is listed on Blackboard on the Rutgers-Newark website. Through Blackboard, you will be able to access a copy of the syllabus, all of the course readings, and other material for the course. I will also post announcements regarding the course from time to time there. Note that you will sometimes be reading parts of certain books in different weeks. Among these are:

- Buckley** = T. Buckley, Aspects of Greek History, 750 – 323 BC. A source based approach. 2nd Edition. Routledge, 2010. [This book will serve as a sort of textbook for us, providing a historical narrative as we go through the course].
- Robinson** = E. Robinson (Ed.), Ancient Greek Democracy. Readings and sources. Blackwell, 2004. [This is collection of ancient source materials and articles by different modern scholars about these sources, all edited by Robinson].
- Moore** = J. Moore (Ed.), Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy. Translations with introductions and commentary by J. Moore. U. California Press, 1975. [As the title indicates, this is a translation of various works of Aristotle and Xenophon as they pertain to democracy and oligarchy, with introductions and commentary on each work by Moore. I will cite the ancient authors by their ancient work citation numbers, and by their corresponding page numbers within Moore’s text. I will ask you to read various parts of this book—pay attention to when what you are reading are comments by Moore or the words of Aristotle and Xenophon, and cite them correctly as such]
- Roche** = P. Roche (Ed.), Aristophanes: the complete plays. The new translations by Paul Roche. New American Library, 2005. [This is a collection of all of Aristophanes plays in English translation. I will have you read many of these plays throughout the course. Roche’s translations are very modern and don’t pull punches. His comments, however, are not well informed. So, use his translation but only read his notes with caution].
- MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens** = D. MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens. Oxford U. P., 2005. [This book has short essays about every extant play of Aristophanes, with a chapter devoted to each play. I will assign this reading with a play of Aristophanes in Roche, and you should read MacDowell’s chapter on each play before reading the play itself so you understand it better].
- Cambridge Ancient History [sometimes abbreviated CAH]** <2nd Ed.>, Cambridge, 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. I’ve put Volume 5 (on fifth century history) and Volume 6 (on the fourth century down to 323 BCE) in our readings in Blackboard, from which we’ll read a few articles. Other readings in them are useful if you need clarification on some points of history for the periods in question. As with the OCD (below), other volumes and editions can be checked out of various Rutgers libraries.]
- Philips** = D. Philips, Athenian Political Oratory. Sixteen key speeches, translated by David D. Philips. Routledge, 2004. [As the title indicates, this book has 16 political speeches in it translated and with introduction by Philips.]

OTHER SUPPORT MATERIALS:

The following items may help you in your reading and research.

Oxford Classical Dictionary [= **OCD**] <4th Ed>. Oxford, 2012. 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 earlier editions of this which can be checked out of the library, and I’ve provided an electronic version in the Blackboard readings.

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 since the early 1900s, covers all major ancient authors and many 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.

DAILY SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

All sources can be found on Blackboard. Please pay attention to readings as listed below, as some of the PDFs I provide you contain more than what is assigned from them.

I. Mon 9 Sept: Introduction; Origins of Greek Democracy

- Brennan, "Outline of Athenian Political System" [for reference throughout the course]
- Buckley, p. 1-39
- Excerpts from Homer in Robinson, p. 1-27
- *Raaflaub, "Homer and the beginning of political thought in Greece," in Robinson, p. 28-40
- *Edmunds, "Commentary on Raaflaub," in Robinson, p. 41-45
- *Morris, "Equality and the origins of Greek democracy," in Robinson, p. 45-75

II. Mon 16 Sept: Archaic Greece; Archaic Athens; the Solonic Reforms; Greek Tyranny

- Herodotus 1.1-94 [Herodotus' introduction; King Croesus and Solon the Athenian]
- Thucydides 1.1-23 [Thucydides' introduction]
- Herodotus 5.70-71 and Thucydides 1.126 [Cylon's attempt to become tyrant at Athens]
- Plutarch, Lives of Athenians: Life of Solon
- Buckley, p. 40-100
- Aristotle, Athenian Constitution 1-13, in Moore p. 141-157, with notes on p. 208-227
- Xenophon, Politeia of the Spartans, in Moore, p. 65-121, with notes on p. 93-121
- *Anderson, "Before *turannoi* were tyrants"

III. Mon 23 Sept: The Peisistratid Tyranny; Cleisthenic Constitution; Ancient Greek Male Sexuality

- Herodotus, 5.28-7.4 [Ionian Revolt; Peisistratids; Cleisthenic Constitution; Marathon Campaign]
- Thucydides, 1.20 and 6.53-59 [his take on the expulsion of the Peisistratids]
- Aristotle, Athenian Constitution 14-24, in Moore p. 157-168 with 227-251
- Buckley, p. 101-146
- Ancient sources on the "freeing" of Athens in Robinson, p. 76-95
- *Ober, "The Athenian Revolution of 508/7 BC: violence, authority and the origins of democracy," in Robinson, p. 95-112
- *Samons, "Revolution or compromise," in Robinson, p. 113-122
- *Lear, "Ancient Pederasty"
- *Hubbard, "Peer Homosexuality"

IV. Mon 30 Sept: The Continuation of the Persian Wars; the Establishment of Athenian Empire and the Radical Democracy

- Herodotus, 7.5-60, 100-105, 138-144, 175-239 [Xerxes & Thermopylae Campaign]
- Herodotus, 8.40-144 [Salamis Campaign] and 9.19-85 [Plataea Campaign]
- Thucydides, 1.9-117, 126-138 ["Pentacontaetia" and stories of Pausanias & Themistocles]
- Aristotle, Athenian Constitution 25-28 and 42-69, in Moore, p. 168-172 with p. 251-257, and p. 183-205 with p. 274-310
- Plutarch, Lives of Athenians: Lives of Themistocles and Cimon
- Buckley, p. 147-265
- Ancient sources on liberty and equality in Robinson, p. 152-159
- *Ostwald, "Shares and rights: 'citizenship' Greek style and American style," in Robinson, p. 159-171
- *Hansen, "The ancient Athenian and the modern liberal view of liberty as a democratic tool," in Robinson, p. 171-184
- *Davies, "Greece after the Persian Wars," in Cambridge Ancient History 5, p. 15-33

V. Mon 7 Oct: Athenian Court System; Drama and Democracy; Popular Participation in Democracy

Aeschylus, Eumenides

Aristophanes, The Wasps, in Roche

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, "The Wasps"

MacDowell, Law [operation of Athenian courts]

Lang, The Athenian Citizen: democracy in the Athenian Agora [guidebook to the Agora highlighting the physical space and the surviving materials used to operate the democracy]

Thucydides and Demosthenes on elite vs. popular leadership in Robinson, p. 185-201

*Rhodes, "Who ran democratic Athens?" in Robinson, p. 201-211

*Wilson, "Demosthenes 21 (Against Meidias): democratic abuse," in Robinson, p. 211-231

*Ober, "Power and oratory in democratic Athens: Demosthenes 21, Against Meidias," in Robinson, p. 232-247

*Henderson, "A brief history of Athenian political comedy"

*Flaig, "Greek tragedy and the democratic political sphere"

*Vanderpool, "Ostracism at Athens" [be sure to look at shards at end of the article]

VI. Mon 14 Oct: Athenian Empire and Democracy I: Athens' Self-Image and Exploitation of the Delian League

Euripides, Ion

Thucydides, 2.34-46 [Pericles' Funeral Oration]

[Xenophon], Constitution of the Athenians, in Moore, p. 65-123 [the ancient author of this work is sometimes known as "The Old Oligarch" or "Pseudo-Xenophon," since it doesn't seem to be Xenophon of Athens]

Plutarch, Lives of the Athenians: Life of Pericles

Buckley, 266-298

*Hanson, "Hoplites into democrats"

*Strauss, "Trireme as school of democracy"

VII. Mon 21 Oct: Athenian Empire and Democracy II: The Peloponnesian War

Thucydides, 5.84-116 ["The Melian Dialogue"]

Euripides, Trojan Women

Aristophanes, Acharnians, in Roche

Aristophanes, Peace, in Roche

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, "The Acharnians"

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, "The Peace"

Buckley, 299-398

VIII. Mon 28 Oct: Politicians After Pericles: Cleon, Nicias and Alcibiades

First Review Paper Due

Thucydides, 3.1-50 [Cleon and the revolt of Mytilene and the "Mytilenian Debate"]

Thucydides, 4.1-41 [Cleon and the capture of Pylos]

Thucydides, 4.117-5.24 [Cleon vs. Brasidas; the Peace of Nicias]

Thucydides, 5.25-83 [Alcibiades' first activities]

Thucydides, 6.1, 8-32, 42-53, 60-72, 88; 7.1-87 [Sicilian Expedition: years 415-413 BCE]

Plutarch, Lives of the Athenians: Life of Alcibiades

Aristophanes, Knights, in Roche

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, "The Knights"

*Connor, New Politicians [excerpt from p. 185-236]

*Morwood, "Euripides and the demagogues"

IX. Mon 4 Nov: Women in Athenian Democracy and Society

Aristophanes, Lysistrata, in Roche

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, “The Lysistrata”

MacDowell, Law, p. 84-108 [women and family in Athenian law]

Ancient sources on women in Athens, in Robinson, p. 248-265 [skip “The Old Oligarch” passage on p. 250-251]

*Jameson, “Women and democracy in fourth-century Athens,” in Robinson, p. 281-292

*Katz, “Women and democracy in ancient Greece,” in Robinson, p. 292-312

*Keuls, Reign of the Phallus

X. Mon 11 Nov: NO CLASS

XII. Mon 18 Nov: Revolutions of 411/10 and 404/03 BCE; Slavery in Democratic Athens

Thucydides 8.1-109 [Revolutions of 411/10 BCE]

Xenophon, Hellenica 2.3.1-2.4.43 [on the “30 Tyrants”]

Aristotle, Athenian Constitution 29-41, in Moore, p. 172-183 with p. 257-274

Buckley, p. 399-429

Philips, Athenian Political Oratory, x-xix [introduction to Athenian political oratory], p. 1-34 [discussion of 30 Tyrants, followed by translations of 3 speeches of Lysias]

*Osborne, “The economics and politics of slavery at Athens,” in Robinson, p. 265-281 [read “The Old Oligarch” passage on p. 250-251 before reading this to remind you of what’s said there]

*Millett, “Aristotle and slavery in Athens”

*Hunter, “Pittalacus and Eucles: slaves in public service of Athens”

XIII. Mon 25 Nov: Athenian Democracy in Fourth Century BCE I: Democracy with Diminished Empire

Aristophanes, Assemblywomen, in Roche

Aristophanes, Wealth, in Roche

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, “The Assemblywomen”

MacDowell, Aristophanes and Athens, “The Wealth”

Buckley, p. 430-450

*Austin, “Society and economy,” in Cambridge Ancient History 6, p. 527-564

*Burke, “The habit of subsidization in Classical Athens: towards a thetic ideology”

XIV. Mon 2 Dec: Athenian Democracy in Fourth Century BCE II: Athens, Demosthenes and Philip II of Macedon

Plutarch, Lives of Athenians: Life of Demosthenes

Philips, Athenian Political Oratory, p. 35-112 [introduction to Philip II and Athens, followed by translations of speeches of Demosthenes and a letter of Philip to the Athenians]

Buckley, p. 451-471

*Rhodes, “The polis and the alternatives,” in Cambridge Ancient History 6, p. 565-591

XV. Mon 9 Dec: The Philosopher and Democracy

Second Review Paper Due

Plato, The Republic

*Ostwald and Lynch, “The growth of schools and the advance of knowledge,” in Cambridge Ancient History 6, p. 610-633

FINAL EXAM/ESSAY DUE ON DATE TBD: send to me by email attachment in .doc, .docx or .pdf format (gfarney@rutgers.edu)