

Spring 2020, MW 1:15-2:30, PR 202

Instructor: Christopher Chinn (christopher.chinn@pomona.edu; 7-2926)

Office: PR 7

Office Hours: TR 1-1:50 or by appointment. I have an open-door policy and am in my office quite a bit, but it's always best to let me know ahead of time if you intend to drop in.

Course Objective: The goal of this course is threefold: (1) to introduce students to ancient Greek and Roman culture (i.e., history, literature, philosophy, religion, and daily life) from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity and (2) to encourage students to engage in the kinds of critical problems that exercise Classicists; (3) to improve students' writing. The course should also enable students to have a richer experience in subsequent advanced seminars in Classics, Ancient History, LAMS, and Ancient Philosophy.

Course Plan: The course will involve both lecture and discussion components. Student attention will be focused primarily upon literary material. The instructor will supplement these readings with presentations on the material record and less well-known written works. A critical understanding of all the material should allow students to form their own conclusions about Ancient Mediterranean culture. There will be several problem-based writing assignments leading up to a short research paper at the end of the term will round out student work. Various other in-class writing assignments will be used to supplement student participation.

Texts: Please obtain the following texts. Since translations can vary greatly, please be sure to acquire the specific editions listed below.

- Dutta, Shomit (ed.) 2004. *Greek Tragedy*. Penguin Classics. [ISBN-13: 978-0141439365]
- Fagles, Robert (tr.) 1990. *Homer. The Iliad*. Penguin. [ISBN-13: 978-0140275360]
- Mandelbaum, Allen (tr.) 1981. *The Aeneid of Virgil*. Bantam. [ISBN-13: 978-0553210415]
- Melville, Ronald (tr.) 2009. *Lucretius, On the Nature of the Universe*. Oxford World's Classics [ISBN-13: 978-0199555147]
- Reeve, C.D.C. (tr.) 2004. *Plato. Republic*. Third edition. Hackett. [ISBN-13: 978-0872207363]
- Warner, Rex (tr.) 1954. *Thucydides. History of the Peloponnesian War*. Penguin. [ISBN-13: 978-0140440393]
- Waterfield, Robin (tr.) 2008. *Herodotus. The Histories*. Oxford World's Classics. [ISBN-13: 978-0199535668]
- Yardley, J.C. (tr.) 2008. *Tacitus, The Annals: The Reigns of Tiberius, Claudius, and Nero*. Oxford World's Classics [ISBN-13: 978-0192824219]

NB: I may provide additional texts during the course of the term.

Academic responsibility: I take the issues of cheating and plagiarism seriously. Please familiarize yourself with Pomona's policies and procedures regarding appropriate academic behavior by reading this:

http://catalog.pomona.edu/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=6642#academic_honesty

It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct, plagiarism, and other violations of academic honesty.

Academic accommodations: Pomona College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations may be made by contacting the Dean of Students Office. It is up to the student to contact the professor to fulfill the accommodations. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Grading: Here is the breakdown of assignments. For my views on grading, participation, and classroom etiquette, please read this: <http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/policies.htm>.

Short essays: 45%

Short research paper: 30%

In-class participation and attendance: 25%*

*The participation component is based on my impression of your preparedness. If I feel you are not prepared on more than one occasion, you will lose 2 percentage points for each subsequent instance of unpreparedness. Attendance is mandatory. Your overall grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for each unexcused absence. For an absence to be excused you must provide me with appropriate documentation within one day.

Course expectations: I expect you to engage in critical reading of the texts, to participate actively in class, and to produce good writing. Below I have detailed my expectations of you.

I. Reading: Expect to engage in critical reading of about 100 pages per week. The texts we will be examining are translations of ancient Greek and Roman writers. Because of cultural and linguistic difference these are sometimes difficult to understand right at first.

- Write down any questions or observations you have while reading. Analyze these questions and observations for patterns before coming to class and make sure to bring them up.
- Don't worry about all the details. Keep track of the thread of the narrative, the people or characters involved, and any features of the text that strike you as interesting or unusual. Write down your ideas, questions, confusions, and the like. We'll discuss these and any minor details in class.
- Try to find solutions to problems or confusions you may have by briefly reviewing an assigned reading. Often you will be able to answer your questions yourself this way.

II. Writing: For all papers I expect good writing and complete documentation (see my "Writing guidelines" sheet: http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/writing_guidelines.htm). Paper assignments will be graduated to reflect your increased experience with the texts.

- Your papers should propose an interesting thesis, and should support this thesis with evidence from the text(s) we are considering.
- Don't mess around with cute introductions or flowery terminology. Just state your case as simply and forcefully as you can.
- Provide citation of all evidence used. NB that modern scholarship does not in most cases constitute evidence (though if you follow a modern scholar's argument you should cite it). For a guide to citing the ancient writers go to: <http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/citation.htm>.
- Do not use internet sources of any kind. I know this is a draconian stricture, but it seems necessary in order to cut down on plagiarism, both intentional and unintentional.
- The Writing Center (SCC 148) offers students free, one-on-one consultations at any stage of the writing process: <https://www.pomona.edu/administration/writing-center>.

III. Participation: Active participation in class is an extremely important part of this course. You are asked to contribute to all discussions.

- Come to class prepared to talk about the assigned texts. This means having questions, observations, and arguments *written down ahead of time*. It also means you have to bring up what you've written down during class discussion.
- If you're shy, come talk to me about strategies for you to participate. I will also try to get you involved at appropriate times during class.
- Make sure you pull your weight in group work. Collaboration with others is an important skill in the real world, so you might as well start practicing it now.

Schedule of readings: We will try to follow the course of readings below. This schedule is subject to change, depending upon the pace of our discussions. Please pay attention for email updates! Please have the assignments read BEFORE the date indicated. For the citation of ancient authors, please consult the following page: <http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/citation.htm>.

Week 1**M Jan 20**

NO CLASS

W Jan 22

General Introduction

Week 2**M Jan 27**Homer, *Iliad* 1 (all); 2.1-503; 3 (all); 4 (all); 5.1-47, 266-539, 803-end; 6.1-282**W Jan 29**

Discussion theme: the one and the many [FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT]

Week 3**M Feb 3**Homer, *Iliad* 6.282-end; 7 (all); 8.1-223; 9 (all); 11.704-end; 14.187-518; 15.1-332; 16 (all)**W Feb 5**

Discussion theme: the face of battle

Week 4**M Feb 10**Homer, *Iliad* 18 (all); 19.282-413; 21 (all); 22 (all); 23 (all--SKIM); 24 (all)**W Feb 12**

Discussion theme: every man?

[FIRST PAPER DUE Friday 2/14, 5pm]

Week 5**M Feb 17**Herodotus, *Histories* 1.1-58, 81-93, 130-149; 3.79-117; 5.49-78; 6.96-124; 7.20-105; 7.131-145, 200-239; 8.40-99, 131-144**W Feb 19**

Discussion theme: what is history? [SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT]

Week 6**M Feb 24**Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 1.1-23, 88-118, 139-146; 2.34-65; 3.3-50, 80-85; 5.84-116; 6.1-32; 8.7-93**W Feb 26**Discussion theme: *Die Realpolitik*

Week 7**M Mar 2**

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (all) [Discussion theme: vengeance]

W Mar 4

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (all) [Discussion theme: seriously, who am I?]

Week 8**M Mar 9**

Euripides, *Medea* (all) [Discussion theme: horror]

W Mar 11

Plato, *Republic* 1 (all); 2 (to 376D)

[SECOND PAPER DUE Friday 3/13, 5pm]

Week 9**M Mar 23**

Plato, *Republic* 3 (412B-end); 4 (all); 6 (all); 7 (all)

W Mar 25

Discussion theme: justice [THIRD PAPER ASSIGNMENT]

Week 10**M Mar 30**

Vergil, *Aeneid* 1 (all); 2.346-end; 3 (all); 4 (all)

W Apr 1

Discussion theme: the many and the one

Week 11**M Apr 6**

Vergil, *Aeneid* 6 (all); 7 (all); 8 (all)

W Apr 8

Discussion theme: empire and imperialism

[THIRD PAPER DUE Friday 4/10, 5pm]

Week 12**M Apr 13**

Vergil, *Aeneid* 10 (all); 11.620-end; 12 (all)

W Apr 15

Discussion theme: closure [RESEARCH PROPOSAL/PAPER ASSIGNMENT]

Week 13**M Apr 20**

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things* 1.1-634; 2.1-62; 3 (all); 4.962-end

W Apr 22

Discussion theme: the good life?

[RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE Friday 4/24, 5pm]

Week 14

M Apr 27

Tacitus, *Annals* 1 (all); 2.82-end; 3.31-end; 4.1-36;

W Apr 29

Discussion theme: hypocrisy

Week 15

M May 4

Tacitus, *Annals* 13 (all); 14 (all), 15.37-end

W May 6

Discussion theme: sycophancy

[RESEARCH PAPER DUE FINALS WEEK]

Reference works:

There are two standard encyclopedic reference works for Classical Studies in English. One is the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd edition revised, available online at <https://ccl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/102949>). This single-volume resource contains short articles on major writers and topics concerning the ancient world. The *OCD* provides only limited access to primary sources, though most articles have a serviceable basic bibliography. The other standard reference work is *Brill's New Pauly* (20 volumes, DE5 .P33213 2006; online <https://ccl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/54952013>). The *New Pauly* is a shortened and updated version of a monumental work originally published in German in the century as the *Pauly-Wissowa Realencyclopädie der Classischen Altertumswissenschaft* in something like 80 volumes. The work is more in depth than the *OCD*, but can be harder to use.

The standard historical work for the ancient world is the (*Cambridge Ancient History*, 14 volumes, D 59 C14 1970). This chronologically arranged narrative contains articles by eminent ancient historians and includes copious bibliography. Some of the earlier volumes (from the 1970s) are already showing their age. The newer *Blackwell History of the Ancient World* (various locations in the library, usually in the DF and DG sections; some volumes available online through the library) contains good historical overviews of major periods in antiquity, but is still incomplete and ongoing.

The *Cambridge History of Classical Literature* (2 volumes, PA3052 G73 1985 and PA6003 L33 1983) is still useful for obtaining general background on Greek and Roman writers and their contexts. For in-depth coverage of specific writers and topics you may want to see if there is a "companion." Three main "companion" series are now available: Cambridge, Brill's and Blackwell (various locations in the library; for a list see http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/companion_series.pdf).

The best way to access the diverse written texts from the ancient world is through the Loeb Classical Library (published by Harvard University Press, at various locations in the library, mostly in the PA section; also online: <https://ccl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/890330258>). These texts contain the original Greek or Latin on the left-hand page, and an accompanying English translation on the right. Many Loeb's have gone through multiple editions and you should always try to use the most recent edition.

For philosophical issues you may consult W. K. C. Guthrie's *A History of Greek Philosophy* (5 volumes, B 171 G984 H6). Although showing its age, this work still remains the standard overall narrative of Greek philosophy. Guthrie's work also is appropriate for the study of Roman philosophy since Roman philosophy is largely based on Greek systems.

The library has also created a Classics research guide: <https://libguides.libraries.claremont.edu/Classics>. Please consult this page when looking for sources.