Athenian Democracy in the Age of Pericles
History 205-02
TuTh 11-12.15
Clough 417

General Information:
Instructor: Professor Brian Warren
Office: 515A RhodesTower
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Course Description:
Often called the “Golden Age” of ancient Greek history, the fifth century BCE saw an astonishing cultural flowering at Athens. Its monuments include the Parthenon on the Athenian acropolis, the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides, the wisdom of Socrates, and the growth of democracy under the leadership of Pericles. This course will investigate and contextualize these and other achievements through a survey of the central themes of Greek social, political, and military history during the Archaic and Classical periods, including the rise of the city-state or polis, tyranny, hoplite warfare, athletics, panhellenism, and the formation of a (Western) Greek identity through the encounter with the (Eastern) Persians. Comparisons of Athens with other Greek city-states, especially Sparta, will provide additional context. We will also examine the less than golden aspects of the age such as imperialism, slavery, and the treatment of women.

Grading:
20% Attendance and Participation, [Small Exercises, Pop Quizzes]
10% Quizzes (Sep 22, Nov 3)
20% Midterm Exam (Oct 6)
30% Final Exam
20% Paper (Dec 7)

Required Texts:

Plutarch, The Rise and Fall of Athens, tr. Scott-Kilvert (1960)
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, tr. Warner (1972)

K. Freeman, The Murder of Herodes (1963)

C. Fornara, Archaic Times to the End of the Peloponnesian War, Vol. 1 Translated Documents of Greece & Rome (1994)
Syllabus:
Please note that this syllabus is subject to supplement and change. You should aim to complete the assigned readings prior to class. Please bring assigned texts to class in order to aid discussion.

Aug 25: Course Introduction
- Pausanias, “Kleomenes of Astypalaia” (handout)

Aug 30, Sep 1: Sources and Evidence for Ancient History
- BHAG Intro (pp 1-11); also look over the Timeline (BHAG xv-xxi) and Map of Greece and the Aegean World (BHAG xxii-xxiii); these items will be useful to consult when you do future readings

Sep 6: The Athenian Achievement
- Tu Sep 6: Thuc. 2.34-46 (Pericles’ Funeral Oration, pp 143-151); The Athenian Constitution (pp 39-118)

Sep 8, 13: Athenian Prehistory: The Bronze Age and Dark Age
- Th Sep 8:
  - BHAG Ch 1 Early Greece and the Bronze Age (pp 12-35)
  - BHAG Ch 2 The “Dark Age” of Greece and the Eighth-Century “Renaissance” (pp 36-60)
- Tu Sep 13: Plut. Theseus (pp13-41); Herodotus 2.2-5, 2.19-28, 2.35-38, 2.43-45, 2.48-53, 2.113-120, 2.124-128

Sep 15, 20, 22: Archaic Greece
- Th Sep 15: BHAG Ch 3 Archaic Greece (c 700-500 BC) (pp 61-90)
- Tu Sep 20: Plut. Solon (pp 43-76); Herodotus, Book 1.1-92 (pp 3-44)
- Th Sep 22: BHAG Ch 4 Sparta (pp 91-109); Plut. Lycurgus (on reserve, from Plutarch on Sparta, pp 8-46); Quiz

Sep 27, 29, Oct 4: The Persian Wars
- Tu Sep 27: BHAG Ch 5 The Growth of Athens and the Persian Wars (pp 110-137); Herodotus Book 5 (pp 311-359)
- Th Sep 29: Herodotus, Books 6-7 (pp 360-500)
- Tu Oct 4: Herodotus, Book 8-9 (pp 501-603)

Oct 6: Midterm Exam
- Th Oct 6: Midterm Exam

Oct 11, 13, 20: The Athenian Moment
- Tu Oct 11: BHAG Ch 6 The Rivalries of the Greek City-States and the Growth of Athenian Democracy (pp 138-165); Plut. Themistocles (pp 77-108)
- Th Oct 13: Plut. Aristides (109-139); Plut. Cimon (pp 141-163)
• Th Oct 20: BHAG Ch 7 Greece on the Eve of the Peloponnesian War (pp 166-199); part of BHAG Ch 8 The Peloponnesian War (pp 200-204); Plut. Pericles (pp 165-206)

Oct 25, 27, Nov 1, 3: The Peloponnesian War
• Tu Oct 25: Thuc. 1-2 selections
• Th Oct 27: the rest of BHAG Ch 8 The Peloponnesian War (pp 204-224); Thuc.selections
• Tu Nov 1: Thuc. selections
• Th Nov 3: Plut. Nicias (207-243); Plut. Alcibiades (245-285); Quiz

Nov 8, 10, 15, 17: The War’s Postmortem
• Tu Nov 8: BHAG Ch 9 The Crisis of the Polis and the Age of Shifting Hegemonies (pp 225-253); Plato, Apology (on reserve)
• Th Nov 10: Selected Speeches (TBA)
• Tu Nov 15: Plato selections (TBA); Old Oligarch (on reserve)

Nov 22, 29, Dec 1: Athenian Lawcourts
• Nov 29, Dec 1, 6: Select court speeches from Freeman (TBA)

Dec 6: The End of the Classical Age
• Tu Dec 6: BHAG Ch 10 Philip II and the Rise of Macedon; Demosthenes selections (TBA)
• Fri Dec 7, 12 noon: Paper due

Final Exam