

History 205: The Rise and Fall of Athens

Fall 2008
TR 11:00, Palmer Hall 206

Prof. Joe Jansen
Email: jansenj@rhodes.edu
Office: 515B Rhodes Tower, tel. 843-3764
Office hours: W 2:00-3:00, F 2:00-4:00 (or by appointment)

Overview

This course offers a comprehensive survey of one of the most fascinating epochs of European history: Athens from the age of Solon and the birth of democracy in the 6th century BCE to the tumultuous post-Peloponnesian War period (404-399), which saw the collapse of the Athenian empire, tyranny and foreign occupation, and the execution of its greatest citizen, Socrates. Particular attention will be paid to the major political, social, and cultural developments, as we try to understand the factors that contributed to the growth and decline of Athenian civilization. Such an enterprise will afford the student many opportunities to reflect upon our own history and thus to draw useful parallels (as well as key differences) between ancient Athens and modern America. Among the many themes and topics we will examine are: the theory and practice of Athenian democracy; political dissent; imperialism and the Athenian empire; the rhetoric of war; work and leisure; the position of slaves, foreigners, and women in Athenian society; classical art and architecture; and tragedy as a “civic discourse.” While this course is designed as an introduction and assumes no prior experience with Greek history, there will be an emphasis on the use and interpretation of primary sources, both literary and archaeological.

Objectives

This course aims to achieve three objectives:

- To give a comprehensive survey of Athenian history from ca. 600 to 400 BCE with particular emphasis on the “Age of Pericles” (ca. 462/1-429).
- To teach students the “historian’s craft,” that is, the method of critically evaluating primary historical sources in order to understand better the period in question and to appreciate its complexities. The course thus seeks to turn students into budding historians.
- To inspire students to engage in comparative historical analysis with the hope that they make valuable connections between Athenian history and our own.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation. It goes without saying that your success in this course depends greatly on your attendance in class. But let me underscore three specific reasons

why. First, during lecture you get to see me, a trained real-life historian, working through the sources in a critical way. Class time therefore affords the student the opportunity to have the skills required to succeed in this course “modeled” for you. Second, I will often employ Greek terms (transliterated into English) in class that are not found in the course readings. I expect students to know and use these in their papers and in class discussion. Lastly, I expect *all* students to participate in class, which is to say, to ask good questions, make insightful comments, and even challenge me, the professor, about interpretations given in class. Consequently, **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** I allow **THREE** unexcused absences for the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a decrease of one whole letter grade from your attendance grade (i.e., one unexcused absence = B; two unexcused absences = C, three = D; four = F [zero]). **N.B.** Excused absences entail providing documentation of a prior commitment (e.g., jury duty) or personal or family emergency (e.g., illness). Such absences are subject to the instructor’s approval. Please keep track of all your absences (note the specific days you missed class) in your journal (see below), for at the end of the semester you must pledge your attendance record. Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated.

There will also be one short map quiz on Thursday, **September 11**, which will be factored into your participation grade.

Papers. You are required to write three papers over the course of the semester. The first is a short (2-3 page) source analysis essay (please see the fuller description under “Papers” on the Academic Server) due Tuesday, **September 23**. The next two papers are longer argumentative essays (5-7 pages) in response to a few specific questions I will give you ahead of time (approximately two weeks before the papers are due). The first of these is due Thursday, **November 6**; the second is due on the day of the final exam, Saturday **December 13** at 5:30 PM in my office. These papers do not require additional research (the course readings and lectures should suffice) but extra research is not discouraged.

Grading

Your course grade will be calculated as follows (A = 100-93; A- = 92-90; B+ = 89-88; B = 87-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-78; C = 77-73; C- = 72-70; D+ = 69-68; D = 67-63; D- = 62-60; F = 59 and below):

Attendance: 10%
Participation: 15% (including map quiz)
Paper I: 15%
Paper II: 30%
Paper III: 30%

Late papers will be accepted but at a loss of 1/3 letter grade for each day late (e.g., B+ becomes a B, then a B- and so on). I do not allow rewrites on the argumentative papers. However, for the source analysis papers, I will permit rewrites for students who earn a grade of at least C+ or higher.

Tips for succeeding in this course

As mentioned above, I am a stickler for coming to class regularly and with a willingness to participate. Accordingly, you must be well prepared, which means coming to class not only having completed the day's reading but also having read them carefully and critically (for more on this, please see the document, "Source Analysis: An Introduction"). Please take copious reading notes with your thoughts, comments, and questions. These will help you participate and will improve the overall experience of the class for you and your classmates. Also, you are strongly advised to bring your texts to class, as I will frequently draw your attention to certain passages of importance. I strongly encourage you to visit me during office hours to discuss reading strategies, concepts, issues raised in class, etc. A positive attitude goes a long way. In the past, all those who showed an interest and a desire to master the course material have fared well in my courses.

Course Materials

Required:

Terry Buckley, *Aspects of Greek History* (Routledge 1996).

Plutarch, *The Rise and Fall of Athens: Nine Greek Lives* (Penguin paperback, 1960).

Ian Scott-Kilvert (trans.).

The Landmark Thucydides (Pantheon Books 1998).

The Landmark Herodotus (Pantheon Books 2007).

Aristotle, *The Athenian Constitution* (Penguin paperback, 1984). P.J. Rhodes (ed.)

Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (Hackett paperback, 1998). Peter Meineck (trans).

Aristophanes, *Acharnians, Lysistrata and Clouds* (paperback). J. Henderson (trans.).

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett, 3rd ed., 2001). G. M. A. Grube (trans.). Revised by John M. Cooper.

Schedule and Readings

The following is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. While I do not envision any major changes, this schedule is subject to modification. I will, of course, inform you of any revisions. The readings are broken down between primary and secondary sources, both of which should be read in their entirety for the day listed on the schedule. Note well that Buckley cites additional primary sources in his book chapters to the ones I list on the schedule. Please consider these for your classroom preparation and include them in your paper assignments. Readings marked by an asterisk are located under my name on the Academic File Server under Greek and Roman Studies.

Week 1

Thursday 8/28: Introduction: Sources and Critical Analysis

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-34)

*Crawford & Whitehead, pp. 1-23 with glossary

*Jansen, "Source Analysis: An Introduction"

Information on the Athenian Calendar:

http://www.antonineimperium.org/athenian_calendar.htm

Useful Information on Units of Currency, Weight and Distance:

Landmark Herodotus, Appendix J pp. 773-80

Landmark Thucydides, Appendix J pp. 620-22

Week 2

Tuesday 9/2: Athens in the Early Archaic Age

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 39-44)

Thucydides 2.14.1-2-2.15.2, 2.16.1 (early Athens); 1.126.1-1.127.1 (Cylon)

Plutarch, *Life of Solon* 12 (Cylon), 17 (Draco)

Herodotus 5.70.2-5.72.1

*Crawford & Whitehead, # 64-5

Secondary

Hansen, *Polis* pp. 56-67

*Sealey, *A History of the Greek City States*, Chapter 4 (pp. 89-105)

Thursday 9/4: The Reforms of Solon

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 5-12 (pp. 45-55)

Plutarch, *Life of Solon*, Chapters 8-25, 29-31
*Solon, *Poems* (especially # 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 32, 34, 36-7)

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 5 (pp. 86-106)
*North, *Sophrosyne* pp. 14-29

Week 3

Tuesday 9/9: Tyranny in Athens: Peisistratus and His Sons

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 14-19 (pp. 55-62)
Herodotus, *Histories* 1.59-65; 5.55-57
Thucydides, 6.53.3-6.59
*Fornara, 23, 26, 30, 31, 37, 39 with pp. xvii-xix

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 6 (pp. 107-25)

Thursday 9/11: Cleisthenes and the Origins of Athenian Democracy

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 20-21 (pp. 62-4)
Herodotus, *Histories* 5.62-78
*Crawford & Whitehead, #78-80 (pp. 162-67)

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 7 (pp. 126-43) and Chapter 8 (pp. 144-49)

Week 4

Tuesday 9/16: Athens 508-490: The Ionian Revolt and Persian Wars I

Primary

Herodotus, *Histories* 5.30-38; 5.49-51; 5.79-126; 6.1-50; 6.94-140

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 8 (pp. 149-60)
Cawkwell in *Landmark Herodotus*, Appendix H: "The Ionian Revolt," pp. 762-8
Lee in *Landmark Herodotus*, Appendix N: "Hoplite Warfare in Herodotus," pp. 798-804

Thursday 9/18: Persian Wars II: Thermopylae and Salamis

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapter 22 (pp. 64-5)
Herodotus, *Histories* 7.1; 7.8-11; 7.132-145.1; 8.40-112
Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* 4, 9-10
*Fornara #55-56

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 9 (pp. 161-80)
Landmark Herodotus, Appendix S: "Trireme Warfare in Herodotus," pp. 824-34

Week 5

Tuesday 9/23: Persian Wars III: Plataea and Mycale

Primary

Aeschylus, *Persians*
Herodotus, *Histories* 9.90-121

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 9 (pp. 180-88)
*de Romilly, *The Rise and Fall of States According to Greek Authors*, pp. 42-7

Thursday 9/25: Athenian Empire I: The Delian League to 462

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 23-4 (pp. 66-8)
Herodotus, *Histories* 8.3
Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* 19-21
Plutarch, *Life of Aristides* 23-5
Plutarch, *Life of Cimon* 6-9, 11
Thucydides 1.89-101, 3.10, 5.18, 6.76
Xenophon, *Hellenica* 6.5.34
Diodorus 11.50

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 10 (pp. 189-203) and Chapter 11 (pp. 212-23)

Week 6

Tuesday 9/30: Athenian Empire II: Foreign Policy 462-440/39

Primary

Plutarch, *Life of Cimon* 12-18
Thucydides 1.102-117
*Fornara #71-2, 77, 78, 79, 85, 92, 95, 97-100, 102, 113, 115

Secondary

Buckley, 10 (pp. 203-9) and Chapter 15 (274-85)

*Samons, "Inscriptions and the Controversy over the Three-barred Sigma," pp. 120-1

Thursday 10/2: Athenian Empire III: Control and Benefits

Primary

Pseudo-Xenophon, *The Constitution of the Athenians*

Fornara #128

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 16 (pp. 286-306)

*Finley, "The Athenian Empire: A Balance Sheet"

Osborne, "Archaeology and the Athenian Empire" (Recommended)

Week 7

Tuesday 10/7: Athenian Democracy I: Institutions and Reforms 462/1-451/0

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 25-6, 42-69 (pp. 68-70, 86-114)

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 13 (pp. 241-51) and Chapter 14 (pp. 252-73)

Thursday 10/9: Athenian Democracy II: Ideologies

Primary

Thucydides 2.34-46 (*Funeral Oration*)

*Euripides, *Suppliant Women* (selections)

*Aristotle, *Politics* (selections)

Secondary

*Hansen, *The Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes*, pp. 73-85

*Ober, *Mass and Elite*, in Samons ed., *Athenian Democracy and Imperialism* pp. 64-70

Week 8

Tuesday 10/14: Athenian Democracy III: Pericles and the Nature of Athenian Politics

Primary

Aristophanes, Selections from *Knights* and *Wasps*

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 27-8 (pp.70-2)

Plutarch, *Life of Cimon* 10

Plutarch, *Life of Nicias* 3

Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 3-11, 14-28

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 18 (pp. 333-350)

*Samons ed., *Athenian Democracy and Imperialism* pp. 184-92

Thursday 10/16: The Age of Pericles I: Art and Architecture

Primary

Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 12-13

Fornara #94

Secondary

*Lapatin, "Art and Architecture" in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles*, pp. 125-52

Week 9

Tuesday 10/21: NO CLASS. FALL RECESS

Thursday 10/23: The Age of Pericles II: Festivals and Religion

Primary

Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (read *Agamemnon*)

Secondary

*Boedeker, "Athenian Religion in the Age of Pericles," in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles* pp. 46-69

*Goldhill, "The Great Dionysia and Civic Ideology" in Samons, ed. *Athenian Democracy and Imperialism* pp. 219-28

Week 10

Tuesday 10/28: The Age of Pericles III: Tragedy

Primary

Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (read *Libation Bearers* and *Eumenides*)

Secondary

*Vernant, *Myth and Tragedy* pp. 23-33

*Sagan, *The Honey and the Hemlock*, Introduction (pp. 1-6)

Thursday 10/30: The Age of Pericles IV: Economy and Society

Primary

Lysias 1 at <http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/eratosthenes.shtml>

Secondary

*Kallet, "The Athenian Economy" in *Age of Pericles* pp. 70-95

- *Patterson, "Other Sorts: Slaves, Foreigners, and Women in Periclean Athens," in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles*, pp. 153-78.
- *Davidson, "Private Life"

Week 11

Tuesday 11/4: The Age of Pericles V: A Golden Age?

Primary

- *Plato, *Gorgias* 515c-519a
- Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 39
- Thucydides 2.65

Secondary

- *Cohen, *Athenian Nation* pp. ix-xii, 3-10
- *Samons, "Conclusion: Pericles and Athens," in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles*, pp. 282-307
- *Samons ed., *Athenian Democracy and Imperialism* pp. 81-89, 198-203
- *Rhodes, "Democracy and Empire," in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles*, pp. 24-45

Thursday 11/6: Peloponnesian War I: Causes

Primary

- Thucydides 1.1, 18-88, 1.118-127, 1.139-46; 2.1-33
- Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 29-32

Secondary

- Buckley, Chapter 17 (pp. 307-32)
- *Samons ed., *Athenian Democracy and Imperialism* pp. 281-5, 299-315

Week 12

Tuesday 11/11: Peloponnesian War II: Archidamian War

Primary

- Thucydides 2.55-65.2, 2.70-78; 3.1-87; 5.14-26

Secondary

- Buckley, Chapter 19 (pp. 351-69)

Thursday 11/13: Peloponnesian War III: Melos and *Andrapodismos*

Primary

- Thucydides 5.84-116
- *Euripides, *Trojan Women*

Secondary

*Sagan, *The Honey and the Hemlock*, Chapter 13 (pp. 228-47)

Week 13

Tuesday 11/18: Peloponnesian War IV: Sicilian Campaign I

Primary

Thucydides 6.1-53, 60-105

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 20 (pp. 370-381)

*Cornford, *Thucydides Mythistoricus*, Chapter 8 (pp. 129-52)

Thursday 11/20: Peloponnesian War V: Sicilian Campaign II

Primary

Thucydides 7

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 20 (381-389)

*Cornford, *Thucydides Mythistoricus*, Chapter 12 (pp. 201-20)

Week 14

Tuesday 11/25: Peloponnesian War VI: Political Dissent During the War

Primary

*Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Secondary

*Ober, "Political Conflicts, Political Debates, and Political Thought"

Thursday 11/27: Thanksgiving Recess

Week 15

Tuesday 12/2: Peloponnesian War VII: The Oligarchic Revolution

Primary

Thucydides 8.1-4, 45-54, 63-77, 88-97

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 29-33 (pp. 72-7)

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 22 (pp. 407-423)

Thursday 12/4: Peloponnesian War VIII: Defeat, The Thirty, and Reconciliation

Primary

Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians*, Chapters 34-41 (pp. 78-86)

Xenophon, *Hellenica* 1.6-7; 2.1-5 at <http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/x/xenophon/x5he/>

Secondary

Buckley, Chapter 17 (pp. 390-406)

Week 16

Tuesday 12/9: Socrates and Athens in the Fourth Century

Primary

Plato, *Apology* and *Crito*

Secondary

*Wallace, "Plato's Sophists, Intellectual History After 450, and Sokrates" in Samons ed., *Age of Pericles* pp. 215-37

*Jaeger, *Paedeia* II, pp. 3-12

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