GREEK 0103: GREEK HISTORIANS

Syllabus

Class Meetings - EATN 203
Monday 4:30-5:45 pm
Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm

Course Instructor
Monica Berti
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Office Hours
Wednesday 10:30-1:00; or by appointment
Eaton 329

Textbook

Other Readings and Texts
Other readings and texts listed in the syllabus will be given to the students during classes and posted on the course Trunk site (https://trunk.tufts.edu).

Course Description
In the Histories Herodotus writes that the aim of his inquiry is to write about human deeds so that they will not be forgotten and lose their glory. Herodotus is considered the father of history because he was the first to collect his material systematically, and Greece is the place where historiography was born. The aim of this course is to read ancient Greek historians in the original language and explore characteristics and forms of Greek historical thinking from its first expressions in the Homeric epics down to the Hellenistic age. Students will read extensive passages of Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, and Polybius. They will also learn Athenian local historiography reading the so called fragmentary historians, whose works are preserved only through quotations by other surviving authors. The aim is to learn to identify citations and testimonies of lost historians and explore the concept of fragmentary historiography. Students will also use new digital technologies for encoding and representing Greek texts and citations of lost historians.

Course Requirements and Expectations
• Preparation for attendance and participation in seminar discussions.
• Assigned Readings: to be read before class.
• Assigned Texts: to be read and translated in class with the instructor.
• Written assignments: weekly translation with commentary of one page of one of the Texts read in class during the week. A printed copy of the translation with commentary is due on Monday before class.
• Research Project abstract of 1-2 pages double-spaced with preliminary bibliography (March 5) that results in a Paper of 8-10 pages (April 23). The aim of the Research Paper is to analyze topics treated in class focusing on questions concerning ancient Greek historians and their works.

Examinations
• Midterm Examination (Monday, March 12)
• Final Examination (Monday, April 30)
Topics and Reading Assignments

WEEK ONE

1. Introduction to the Course
MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Reading: J. MARINCOLA, Greek Historians, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2006), pp. 1-8
Text: Lucian, How to write history

2. The Origin of Greek Historiography
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Texts: Hecataeus of Miletus, FGrHist 1 F 1a; Herodotus 2.143

WEEK TWO

3. Herodotus and his Historical Methods
MONDAY, JANUARY 30
Texts: Herodotus 1.9, 1.4

4. Herodotean Egypt
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Text: Herodotus 2.66-70

WEEK THREE

5. Herodotus and Athens
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Texts: Herodotus 5.66, 5.78, 6.131

6. Herodotus and the Battle of Thermopylae
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Text: Herodotus 7.228

WEEK FOUR

7. Thucydides and his Writing of History
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Texts: Thucydides 1.1, 1.22
8. Thucydides and Pericles
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Text: Thucydides 2.37

WEEK FIVE

9. Thucydides and Sparta
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Text: Thucydides 1.10.1-3

10. Thucydides and his Dating System
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Text: Thucydides 2.2.1, 5.20.2

WEEK SIX

11. Xenophon and the ‘Continuation’ of Thucydides’ Narrative
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Text: Xenophon, Hellenica 1.1.1-8

12. Xenophon and Sparta
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29
Text: Xenophon, Hellenica 3.3.3-11

WEEK SEVEN

13. Xenophon and the Ten Thousand
MONDAY, MARCH 5
Text: Xenophon, Anabasis 3.1.2-4

14. The Hellenica from Oxyrhynchus
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
Text: Hellenica Oxyrhynchia fr. 19
WEEK EIGHT

15. MIDTERM EXAMINATION - MONDAY, MARCH 12

16. Ephorus and Theopompus
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
Texts: Ephorus, FGrHist 70 F 9; Theopompus, FGrHist 115 T 1, F 27

WEEK NINE

17. Attic Local Historians
MONDAY, MARCH 26
Text: Plutarch, Theseus 26-27 (= Hellanicus, FGrHist 323a F 16a and F 17a; Philochorus, FGrHist 328 F 110; Clidemus, FGrHist 323 F 18)

18. Contemporary History in the Atthidographers
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
Reading: P. HARDING, ‘Local History and Atthidography’, in J. MARINCOLA (ed.), A Companion to Greek and Roman Historiography 1, Blackwell Publishing (Malden, MA 2007), pp. 180-188
Texts: Philochorus, FGrHist 328 FF 49-51

WEEK TEN

19. The Historians of Alexander the Great
MONDAY, APRIL 2
Texts: Ptolemaeus, FGrHist 138 T 1 and Aristobulus, FGrHist 139 T 6 (= Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander praef.)

20. The Anabasis of Alexander by Arrian
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

WEEK ELEVEN

21. Historians from Sicily and Magnia Graecia
MONDAY, APRIL 9
Texts: Timaeus, BNJ 566 T 10 and T 19 (= Polybius, Histories 12.7 and 12.11)

22. Polybius and his Pragmatic History
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
Text: Polybius, Histories 1.1
WEEK TWELVE

23. Polybius and Rome
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
Texts: Polybius, Histories 6.4, 6.11

WEEK THIRTEEN

24. The Universal Library of Diodorus of Sicily
MONDAY, APRIL 23
Text: Diodorus of Sicily, Historical Library 1

25. Plutarchus’ Historical Biographies
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Text: Plutarch, The Life of Alexander 1

WEEK FOURTEEN

26. FINAL EXAMINATION - MONDAY, APRIL 30