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**Ancient Greek Political Development, Fall 2018**  
**Thursdays 9.25-11.15am**  
**Syllabus**

This course explores the varieties of political experience in the ancient Greek world in the Archaic, Classical and (briefly) Hellenistic eras. Due attention will be given to different regime types (kingship, tyranny, democracy, oligarchy), places (e.g. Athens, Sparta, Crete, Carthage, Syracuse, and beyond Hellas, Persia and Egypt), political forms (city-state, nation, alliance, empire), institutions (assembly, council, courts, offices) and persons (political leader, citizen, woman, foreign resident, slave). The readings are broadly chronological and include a wide variety of sources: epic and elegiac poetry, tragic and comic drama, history, inscriptions, speeches, pamphlets, and philosophy.

Both undergraduates and graduate students are welcome. Requirements are a weekly 200-word forum post reflecting on the readings (10%); class engagement (10%); and 20-25 pp. of writing in the form of either three short papers, two mid-length ones, or one longer one (80%). Please see the "Course Policies" handout for additional details, including instructions on texts.

NB. There will be no class on Thursday, August 30, as I'm presenting at a conference. We'll have a make-up class 8-9.50pm, Monday, October 15. I apologise for the inconvenience!

1. Sep 6. Introduction.

No reading.

2. Sep 13. Kingship (c8/7 and later)

*Iliad* 2.1-493, 9.1-173, 12.310-21, 18.424-615  
*Odyssey* 2.1-29, 8.1-61, 381-432, 13.1-28, 16.409-451, 24.412-548  
Hesiod, *Works and Days* ll. 1-420  
Aristotle, *Politics* 1.1-2, 3.13-18

3. Sep 20. Early history and Solon's Athens (c7/6)

Thucydides, 1.2-12, 2.15-16  
[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 1-13  
Herodotus, 1.29-34  
Aristotle, *Politics* 2.12  
Plutarch, *Solon*

Law of the city of Dreros (Crete), 650-600 (Fornara 11)  
Drakon's law on homicide (Fornara 15)  
Law from Chios, 575-550 (Fornara 19)

Law from a Lokrian community, 525-500 (Fornara 33)

4. Sep 27. Tyranny and Cleisthenes' Revolution (c6)

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 14-22

Herodotus, 1.56-64, 5.55-78, 5.91-95, 6.131

Thucydides 1.13-17, 1.20, 6.53-60

Aristotle, *Politics* 3.2

Orthagoras, tyant of Sicyon (Fornara 13)

The nature of Peisistratos's rule (Fornara 31)

The liberation of Athens (Fornara 39)

5. Oct 4. Looking beyond Hellas: Greek views of "Barbarians" (c6-5)

Herodotus, 1.1-15, 85-140; 2.1, 15-18, 35-38, 50-51, 91, 99-110, 159-68, 172-182; 3.1-3, 65-105; 6.43; 7.1-100

Aeschylus, *Persians*

Greek mercenaries in Egyptian service (Fornara 24)

Polykrates, tyrant of Samos (Fornara 32)

List of Dareios's subjects (Fornara 34)

Letter of Dareios (Fornara 35)

*[For those taking the 3-paper option: paper 1 due 11pm, Friday Oct 5]*

6. Oct 11. Alliance, empire, and war (c5)

Herodotus, 7.138-163; 8.136-144

Thucydides, 1.1, 18-19, 23, 66-125, 139-146; 2.1-9; 3.81-84; 5.84-115

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 23-28

[Xenophon], *Constitution of the Athenians* (Gagarin & Woodruff)

Alliance between Elis and Heraia, c6 (Fornara 25)

Athenian tribute payment decree, 448/7 or 430s or 426/5 (Fornara 98)

Athenian relations with Chalkis, 446-5 (Fornara 103)

Athenian treaty with Samos, 439-8 (Fornara 115)

Athenian reassessment of tribute, 425/4 (Fornara 136)

7. \*\*\*MONDAY\*\*\* Oct 15. Democratic ideology (mid-late c5)

Aeschylus, *Suppliants*

Thucydides, 2.21-22, 34-46, 59-65; 3.36-50; 6.32-41

Aristophanes, *Knights*

Euripides, *Suppliants*, extracts (Gagarin & Woodruff)

[For those taking the two-paper option: paper 1 due 11pm, Monday Oct 22]

8. Oct 25. Sparta and other “mixed constitutions” (c7?-4)

Plutarch, *Lycurgus* (Talbert)  
Herodotus, 1.65-71; 6.51-60; 7.101-105, 207-212, 226-228  
Critias fragments 19, 20, 21 (Gagarin & Woodruff)  
Sayings of Spartan Women (Talbert)  
(?) Xenophon, “Spartan Society” (Talbert)  
Aristotle, *Politics* 2.9-11

Tyrtaeus, the Messenian War, and the Great *Rhetra* (Fornara 12)  
Spartan treatment of helots (Fornara 13)

9. Nov 1. Two Oligarchical Revolutions (end c5)

On the ‘Four Hundred and Five Thousand’ (411/10):

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 29-33  
Thucydides, 8.45-54, 63-77, 86, 89-98  
Antiphon’s self-defence (Gagarin & MacDowell)  
Trial of Antiphon (Fornara 151)  
Phrynichos’ assassins honoured, 409 (Fornara 155)

On the ‘Thirty Tyrants’ (404/3):

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 34-41  
Xenophon, *Hellenica*, 2.3-4  
Lysias, “Against Eratosthenes” (403/2?)  
Rewards for liberators of Athens, c. 403 (Harding 3)

Inspired by these events? Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen* (c. 392)

10. Nov 8. Fourth-Century Athens (c4 down to 322)

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs. 42-65  
Andokides, ‘On the Mysteries’ (400/399)  
Lysias, ‘For the Disabled Man’ (403-380)  
Aeschines, ‘Against Timarchus’ (346/5)  
[Demosthenes] Apollodorus, ‘Against Neaera’ (c. 340)

Charter of the Second Athenian Confederacy, 377 (Harding 35)  
Athenian law against tyranny, 337/6 (Harding 101)  
Oath of the Athenian ephebes (Harding 109)

[For those taking the 3-paper option: paper 2 due 11pm, Friday Nov 9]

11. Nov 15. Aristotle's political analysis (c4)

Aristotle, *Politics*, books 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6

*[For those writing one long paper, memo due 11pm, Friday Nov 16]*

12. Nov 29. The Rise of Macedon (mid-late c4)

Isocrates, *To Philip*  
Aeschines, 'On the Embassy'  
Demosthenes, 'On the Crown'  
Hypereides, 'Against Demosthenes'  
Plutarch, *Alexander*

Philip II captures Amphipolis, 357 (Harding 63)  
Alliance between Athens and Olynthus, 349/8 (Harding 80)  
Foundation of the League for defence against Philip II (Harding 93)  
Immediate causes of war between Athens and Philip II (Harding 95)  
Epigram in honour of Athenian dead at Chaeronea, 338 (Harding 98)  
Philip II's settlement in Greece, 338/7 (Harding 99)  
Money brought to Athens by Harpalos, 325/4 (Harding 120)

13. Dec 6. Conclusion: Macedonian and Roman overlordship (322 on)

Hypereides' Funeral Oration  
Polybius, *Rise of the Roman Empire*, Book 6

Ptolemy's constitution for Cyrene, 322/1 or 313/12 or 308/7 (Harding 126)

*[Final papers are due 11pm, Wednesday Dec 19]*

Stimulating secondary reading:

M.I. Finley, *World of Odysseus* (New York, 1977)  
M.I. Finley, *Democracy Ancient and Modern* (New Jersey, 1985)  
W.G. Forrest, *Emergence of Greek Democracy* (New York, 1966)  
W.G. Forrest, *History of Sparta* (New York, 1969)  
M.H. Hansen, *Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes* (Norman OK, 1999)  
M.H. Hansen, *Polis* (Oxford, 2006)  
E. Robinson, *Democracy Beyond Athens* (Cambridge, 2011)  
G.E.M. de Ste Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World* (Duckworth, 1981)

For reference:

Hansen & Nielsen, *Inventory of Archaic and Classical Poleis* (Oxford, 2004)

## Course policies

### Expectations

- Attendance at all meetings is required.
- I'd prefer no laptops or other electronic devices in class. Speak to me if in any week you're using an electronic text.
- I'd like to see everyone for a 15 minute meeting at some point in the first 3 weeks of the semester (preferably in office hours, but if you can't make it then we can set up another time). A sign-up sheet will be available in class.

### Forum responses

- Using the Canvas Discussions feature, please submit a brief response (max 200 words) to the reading assignment no later than 7am on the day of class, starting Thursday, September 11.
- You should use this as an opportunity to draw attention to anything you have found striking, puzzling or intriguing about the texts; raise any questions you'd like us to discuss; and/or try out ideas you may wish to write about at greater length.
- I will use these responses to help shape our time together. Be prepared for me to ask you to elaborate on any points you raise, and aim to read others' offerings before we meet.

### Evaluation

- Forum responses: 10%
- Class engagement: 10
- 20-25pp. of writing: 80%

You have three writing options, to be chosen and pursued in consultation with me:

1. Three 5-8pp. papers, worth 20/25/35% of your grade, respectively
2. Two 10-12pp. papers, worth 35/45% of your grade
3. One 20-25pp. paper. This is assumed for graduates. Undergraduates who wish to take this option should limit themselves to c.16 pp, and supplement that assignment with a 4pp. paper due in the 6th week of class. This is in order to preserve the WR designation for this course. If you take this option, a memo developing your plans will be due in the 10th week of class.

### Texts

You have various options when it comes to sourcing texts. I recommend that you buy or borrow your own print copies of the Aristotelian *Constitution of the Athenians*, Aristotle's *Politics*, Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Aeschylus, and Plutarch on Sparta. Recommended editions are given below, but if you already have others, feel free to use them. It may well be useful to have alternative translations available in class. There is one exception to this, which is that Rhodes's edition of the *Constitution of the Athenians* has such excellent explanatory apparatus that I'd like us all to have access to a copy. Finally, you may also want your own copy of Fornara's document collection, which we'll be exploring a good deal.

Other texts I will provide photocopies of as the course progresses. I will also be responsible for bringing Greek versions of our texts to our meetings. I'll be using print copies of the Loeb

Classical Library for that purpose, but you should also know that the entire Loeb collection, with Greek and English on facing pages, is now available online (via Orbis). This is another way to get the reading done, but less good since although you can save texts and your annotations to your personal account, you can't—I believe; let me know if I'm wrong—download anything or print it out, and I'd really prefer us not to be using laptops / tablets in class as I find them too distracting. However, the Loeb library is an amazing resource and I encourage you to explore it when you have a chance.

The Perseus collection, at [www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu), is another useful tool. It's now been partly superseded by the Loeb online, but it too contains many of our texts, in both English and Greek versions (often older Loeb translations), and it has three useful features. First, it's all printable / copiable text. Second, if you display the Greek alongside the English, you can click on words and pull up their entries in the lexicon, as well as statistics about frequency and so on. This is particularly helpful for beginning Greek students (which you may all consider yourselves, even if you've never studied the language!) and you only need a basic familiarity with the Greek alphabet to get some benefit from it. Many words should be legible to English speakers with a bit of imagination (e.g. demos = δῆμος, polis = πόλις). If you're interested in the original Greek behind any English sentences, I'm also happy to help any time. The other useful feature of the Perseus texts is that you can find specific lines you're looking for much more easily than when using the Loeb online, which is currently only searchable using page numbers in the Loeb print edition. If you don't know those, it really slows you down.

If you have fluent ancient Greek, you may of course use exclusively Greek texts in the standard editions; but I'm assuming that won't be many, if any, of us, and you would also need to be willing to translate *ex tempore* in class for the benefit of those without.

### **Recommended texts**

Aeschylus, *The Persians and Other Plays* tr. Alan Sommerstein (Penguin, 2009)  
Herodotus, *The Histories* tr. Aubrey Selincourt (Penguin, 1996)  
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* tr. Rex Warner (Penguin, 1972)  
Aristophanes, *Knights/Peace/Birds/Assemblywomen/Wealth* tr. Sommerstein (Penguin, 1978)  
[Aristotle], *The Athenian Constitution* tr. P.J. Rhodes (Penguin, 1984)  
Aristotle, *Politics* tr. Carnes Lord (Chicago, 1984)  
*Plutarch on Sparta*, ed. and tr. Richard Talbert (Penguin, 1988)  
Charles Fornara, *Archaic Times to the Peloponnesian War* (2nd ed., Cambridge, 1983)  
Phillip Harding, *From the End of the Peloponnesian War to the Battle of Ipsus* (Cambridge 1985)

### **Plagiarism**

Yale faculty are required to make a statement about academic integrity on their syllabi, so here is mine. I take my responsibilities as a teacher and researcher very seriously, and I will hold you to the same standard. Passing off others' work as your own, even inadvertently, is a betrayal of your position as a member of the scholarly community and moreover prevents you from developing and refining your own position, which is the point of a course like this one. Yale's policy on plagiarism is clear; if you have any doubts or queries about it or about how to make appropriate use of others' ideas, ask me, and see <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>.

