

## CC 322: THE ANCIENT HISTORIANS

(UNIQUE NUMBER 32677)

Fall 2009

T-TH 2:00-3:15; GAR 2.128

Professor Haimson Lushkov

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:00pm, Thursday 10:00-11:30am.

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**Course Description:** This class aims to acquaint the student with the main works of ancient historiography, as well as provide grounding in the central issues with which these works engage. The ancient historians are our first port of call in our quest to understand democracy, tyranny, empire, religion, civil war, and international relations, so it is to these foundational texts that we will turn to enliven our connection with the ancient world. Beyond acquiring basic knowledge of each of the historians and their text, we will explore issues such as: the development and coherence of a historiographical tradition, the value of textual material as historical evidence, the status of prose historiography as an independent work of literary art, and the function of historiography as a space to explore broader questions such as truth, identity, nationalism, ethnicity, and political ideologies. We will conclude by thinking about the unique qualities of historiography, and what distinguishes it from related genres such as biography, historical epic, or historical novels.

**Expectations:** This is mainly a lecture course, supplemented by discussion. The workload is approx. 50-75 pages of reading per meeting on average. Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete all assigned readings before class as well as all other assignments by the relevant deadline. This class also places an emphasis on the development of writing skills – your assignments are designed to give you repeated opportunities to improve your critical idiom and expression before the final paper.

You are expected to arrive on time and remain for the entire duration of the class. Failure to do so will negatively affect your grade! I will give several unannounced quizzes in class, and those will count for 10% of your grade. These quizzes cannot be made up, except in case of a documented athletic commitment, medical problem or religious observances, all of which must be approved by me at least 14 days in advance, or by a doctor's note in the case of a medical emergency. You will have to make up quizzes no later than one week after the regular date, or else receive a zero regardless of the reason. Three missed quizzes will result in an F grade.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY, <http://www.utexas.edu/disability/>; you *must* schedule an appointment with me to discuss these accommodations not later than the second week of class.

This class has a **laptops down** policy. Laptop use is distracting to your classmates and to me, and will only be allowed in the back row of the class (if someone is sitting behind you, you are not in the back row). If I see you using a laptop elsewhere, you will be asked to turn it off.

Written assignments are due in my office on the due date by 5:00pm; the Final Paper is due at the beginning of class on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. They must be submitted in hard copy, have a title and your name on them, and be edited and proof-read! Late work will be penalized by one letter grade for every day late, unless approved by me in advance, and subject to the same exceptions and restrictions on making up quizzes.

A Word to the Wise: it is in your own interest to manage time well. You certainly want to be thinking about your paper topics straightaway, and start writing them well in advance of the deadline. Likewise, if you get through most of the week's readings on the weekend prior, your life will be much easier. I expect engaged students and thoughtful, proof-read papers. This is much easier to accomplish if you give yourself time to process, and budget in all other distractions.

**Assessment:** In addition to the regular readings, attendance, and participation, your final grade will be assessed as follows: 1) Three (3) short papers (500 words) on three different ancient authors, selected from the groupings below (under *Important Dates*); your piece should articulately illustrate, through the analysis of a single example, how and why this author interests you 45%; 2) Quizzes 10%; 3) One 2,000 word paper (topic to be determined in consultation with me) 45%. I will give further details in class—please ask me if you have questions about any of these assignments, whether relating to content or format. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or facilitating cheating in any assignment or quiz will receive an F for the class and will be referred to the appropriate dean. If you are not certain what constitute dishonesty, please consult the university's website ([http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)) or ask me. All work must be your own; no group projects are allowed, and any joint work will be considered cheating.

Required Texts: (available from the university COOP. Bear in mind that you need the *Landmark Herodotus* straightaway, but you have a week to obtain the rest).

Strassler, R. 2009. *Landmark Herodotus*. Anchor Press.

Strassler, R. 2008. *Landmark Thucydides*. Free Press; Revised edition.

Mellor, R. 2004. *The Historians of Ancient Rome*. Routledge; 2 edition.

A Course Packet (location for purchasing TBA in class)– readings from the Course Packet are marked [CP] on the Schedule of Readings below. I will try to place all of these readings on hold at PCL as well.

You should be advised that the text in Mellor can sometimes be old-fashioned; if you want to invest in a newer text, both Penguin Classics and Oxford World Classics are good and affordable choices.

### **Important Dates:**

Tues. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>: First Paper Due [Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Constitution of Athens].

Tues. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Second Paper Due [Polybius, Appian, Cicero, Caesar]

Tues. Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: Third Paper Due [Sallust, Livy, Tacitus, Ammianus]

November 24<sup>th</sup>: Class Cancelled. Happy Thanksgiving!

Final Paper Due: Thur. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Schedule of Readings:**

1) Thur. Aug 27<sup>th</sup>: Introduction: History and Historiography; the differences between ancient and modern practices; the limits on what we can know and the questions we can ask; history-writing as a literary genre.

2-3-4) The Father of Lies?: Herodotus, *Histories*, 1, 7, 8.

Tues. Sept 1<sup>st</sup> (1); Thur. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> (7); Tues. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> (8).

5-6-7) A Possession for All Time: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, 1, 2, 6.

Thur. Sept 10<sup>th</sup> (1); Tues. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> (2); Thur. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (6).

8) Tues. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Looking East: Xenophon, *Anabasis* 1, 8. [CP]

9) Thur. Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: Local Histories of Greece: *The Constitution of Athens* [CP]

10) Tues. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>: Greeks Looking at Rome I: Polybius, *History*, 1, 6. [CP]

**FIRST PAPER DUE**

- 11) Thur. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: Greeks Looking at Rome II: Appian, *On the Civil War* (= Mellor, 65-80)
- 12) Tues. Oct 6<sup>th</sup>: The Beginning of Roman Historiography: Cicero, *On the Republic* 2. [CP]
- 13) Thur. Oct 8<sup>th</sup>: History in the Third Person: Caesar, *Commentaries on the Gallic War* (= Mellor, 135-168)
- 14) Tues Oct 13<sup>th</sup>: The Historical Monograph: Sallust, *The Catilinarian Conspiracy* (= Mellor, 81-116.).
- 15-16-17) The History of A Free Republic: Livy, *From the Founding of the City*, 1, 6, 38. [CP]  
Thur. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> (1) **SECOND PAPER DUE**; Tues. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> (6); Thur. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> (38).
- 18-19-20) From Republic to Principate: Tacitus, *Annals, Histories, Agricola* (=Mellor, 427-530).  
Tues. Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> (*Annales*); Thur. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> (*Histories*); Thur. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> (*Agricola*)
- 21) Tues. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: At World's End: Ammianus Marcellinus, *Histories* (= Mellor, 595-614)
- 22) Tues. Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: Christian Hagiography: *the Passion of Pepetua* [CP], *Life of Contantine* (= Mellor, 558-575). **THIRD PAPER DUE.**
- 23) Thur. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>: History and Biography: Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* (= Mellor, 381-426);  
*Augustus, The Achievements of Augustus* (= Mellor, 321-331).
- 24) Tues. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>: Historical Epic: Lucan book 1 [CP], Caesar, *On the Civil War*, book 1 [CP]
- 25) Thur. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: History and Fiction: *The Alexander Romance* and the Historians of Alexander the Great. [CP];
- Tues. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>: Class Cancelled.**
- 26) Tues. Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: Lucian, *How to Write History* [CP]
- 27) Thur. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Concluding Remarks. **FINAL PAPER DUE**