

ODYSSEY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  CONTINUING EDUCATION

2009 FALL COURSE BULLETIN

EXPLORE

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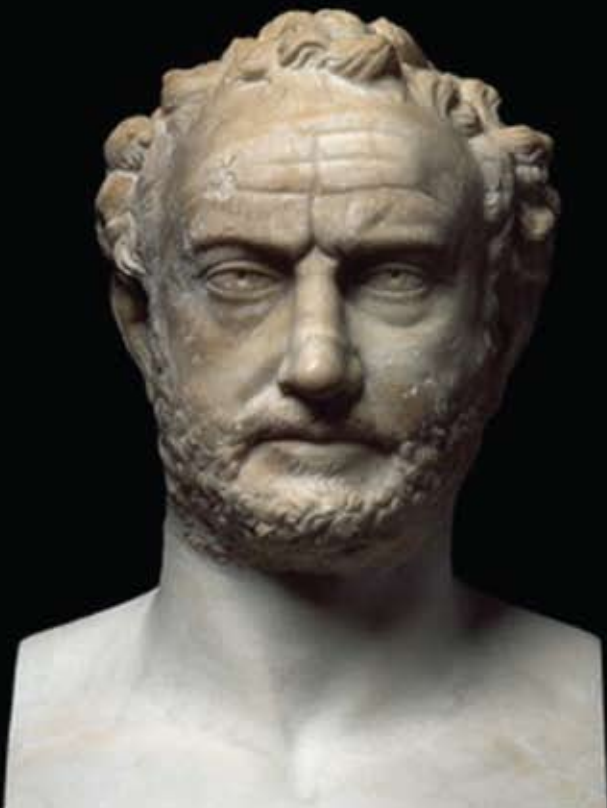
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FALL 2009

Embark on a journey of the mind with Odyssey, a noncredit, personal enrichment program featuring short courses and lecture series at The University of Texas at Austin. Choose from fascinating and relevant topics in history, literature, science, the arts and more. Enrollment is open to all.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: All short courses and lecture series will be held at the Thompson Conference Center on The University of Texas at Austin campus. Please note that course start dates and end dates may vary.

FREE PARKING: Free and easily accessible parking is available in Lot 40 located at Dean Keaton (formerly 26th Street) and Red River Street.



CLASSICAL WORLDS: REDISCOVERING ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

Dates: Seven Mondays, September 28–November 9

Time: 6–7:30 p.m.

“Classical Worlds” provides Odyssey participants an opportunity to rediscover some ways the classical past continues to influence and inform today’s world. The series explores two interlocking themes: some striking similarities between ancient and modern interests, customs and practices in a wide range of areas (IT, law, warfare, medicine, land use and music); and some ways that recent advances of various kinds (new objects for study, new methods of study, new combinations of evidence, etc.) are opening up new windows on the past.

September 28th

THE FIRST EUROPEAN INFO TECH REVOLUTION: LINEAR B, BOOM AND BUST IN THE BRONZE AGE KINGDOM OF PYLOS

Tom Palaima, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

The Greek general and historian Thucydides (5th century BCE) knew that communities in ancient Greece had to compete constantly to acquire and protect resources and had to use military power, supported by economic strength, to do so. The first literate European culture, the Mycenaean Greeks of the late Bronze Age (1500-1200 BCE), have left enough evidence in their peculiar pre-alphabetic written records, in their material remains (buildings, wall paintings, pottery and luxury artefacts) and in later Greek tradition so that we can study and discuss their truly revolutionary accomplishments in state formation, social and economic organization, and the invention of the first well-documented European bureaucracy. Two of the questions we will ask are: What constitutes “the good life” for any society at any period of human history, and how should we assess the success or failure of any given culture?

October 5th

LAW WITHOUT LAWYERS

Michael Gagarin, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

Almost all legal systems in the world have been organized and controlled by legal professionals—lawyers, judges, jurists and others. Athens was different. We’ll learn how the Athenians organized their system of written laws and jury courts without the help of legal professionals, and then consider some of the strengths and weaknesses of their system and what we might learn from them today.

October 12th

WOMEN AND WAR IN ANCIENT GREECE

Paula Perlman, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

The effects of war upon community, and upon non-combatants (women, children and the elderly) in particular, were featured on the Attic stage, most famously in two anti-war plays, Euripides’ tragedy “Trojan Women” and Aristophanes’ comedy “Lysistrata.” In this lecture we shall explore the full range of evidence for women’s attitudes towards war and their participation in it, from the armed goddesses Athene and Aphrodite, to the female poet Telesilla who, legend had it, dressed as a man and defended her city against Spartan invaders, to the stories and documents that describe the fate of women who were captured in war.

October 19th

WHO TOOK THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH?

Lesley Dean-Jones, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

Many physicians still take a form of the Hippocratic Oath, an Oath that was originally composed sometime in the 5th or 4th c. B.C.E. Why was this Oath first administered? Who took it? What relationship does it bear to the Oath taken by modern physicians? We will see that there are some issues in medical ethics that have remained constant over two and a half millennia and some that have changed considerably.

October 26th

CLASSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Adam Rabinowitz, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

Digital technologies are changing the way we look at classical culture as rapidly as they are changing the way we live our lives. More people than ever before have access to the textual and material remains of the Greek and Roman worlds, thanks to the Internet. The fragile remnants of the past can now be documented and displayed for all to see. Yet these developments come with their own challenges. This lecture discusses some of the new digital tools and techniques used in classical studies, and identifies probable future developments.

November 2nd

TOWN AND COUNTRY IN GRAECO-ROMAN EGYPT

Jennifer Gates-Foster, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

The cities, towns and villages of Egypt were, in some ways, dramatically transformed during the period of Greek and Roman rule in Egypt. However, in other respects, daily life went on as it had for millennia and the Classical culture of the conquerors was itself radically changed by long interaction with Egypt's people and customs. This lecture will explore archaeological and historical evidence for this fascinating era of history, when Greek, Roman and Egyptian practices came together to form a multicultural society of incredible richness and complexity.

November 9th

OLD AND NEW IN GREEK AND ROMAN MUSIC

Tim Moore, Ph.D., Classics, UT Austin

The music of Greece and Rome, long a mystery, is now beginning to be understood better than ever before. New findings allow us to appreciate not only the general nature of ancient music, but also the vast changes it underwent between its earliest beginnings through the transition to medieval musical traditions.

