

Greek 202: Herodotus

Spring, 2007

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Office hours: M 9-10; T 11-12; Th 12-1:15

Purpose: This course is designed to do two things. First, you will improve your facility with ancient Greek, especially Greek prose, by reading large chunks of Herodotus. Second, you will become expert on the *Histories* of Herodotus by reading the whole in English, as well as reading some contemporary scholarship on it.

Herodotus offers many charms to the reader. He is rightly credited with having invented the genre of history in the West, and from his work we can infer a theory of historical method which has informed much subsequent historical writing. He is also, however, one of the finest storytellers in antiquity, and even early readers (e.g. Thucydides) found that his work lacked a necessary objectivity and verifiability. In recent years, Herodotus' stock has been rising, as modern readers have appreciated his work as an early attempt at ethnography. We will look at Herodotus in all of these lights, as well as considering his importance as a creator of a 5th-century Athenian sense of national identity against an exotic, often effeminate East.

Assignments/Grading: This course will have three translation exams (20% each), and a final paper (25%). In addition, each member of the class will lead discussion, at some point in the semester, on a book of Herodotus, or an article or book chapter from those listed on the syllabus. We will sign up for discussion leading in the second week of class. Your performance as discussion leader as well as your attendance/preparation for class will determine the remaining 15% of your grade.

Readings and Class time: Class will be a mixture of translation and discussion on the reading (in Greek or English) for the day. I expect that you will come to class having read *and thought about* that day's assignment. If you fail to do this, discussions will be lackluster, presentations will make little sense, and you will find yourself generally unhappy. A number of readings are on the **Blackboard** site for the class. These readings are integral to the course and *not* optional (Please note that not every reading on Blackboard is on the syllabus; some are there as additional sources.) The reading assignments are sometimes long, so plan ahead and give yourself time to enjoy reading them. If you do not enjoy Herodotus by the end of the semester, something is very wrong.

Attendance: For the duration of this semester and for the purposes of this class, we are a community of scholars. Please plan to attend every class session. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed. A bit of friendly advice: long experience has shown that students who come to class regularly and well-prepared tend to do better on exams and papers. Ignore this fact at your peril. I also reserve the right to grade you down for poor attendance and/or lack of preparation.

Attendance, part II: I have become increasingly disenchanted with the notion that Spring Break should last longer than one week. You have 8 days off (Saturday-Sunday). Your travel plans are not a sufficient excuse for missing class the day before or after break.

Academic Honesty: In the unlikely event that I find that a student is has engaged in academic dishonesty (cheating, helping other students to cheat, plagiarism) he/she will fail the course. I will also report the student to the Honor Board, as required by the Honor Code. An excellent discussion of plagiarism exists in the honor code: <http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor> .

Texts:

Herodotus Book I, ed. George A. Sheets

Herodotus: The Histories, trans. Robin Waterfield

You will also need a Greek dictionary. I have ordered the Middle Liddel, which will serve you well for the rest of your Greek career. Also acceptable is the Oxford “pocket” Greek dictionary.

Please note: you will **not** need *Herodotus Book VIII*, ed. Enoch Powell.

Schedule of Readings

Date	Greek	English
Feb. 5	Introduction: Herodotus and the Persian invasions; Ionic Greek; other smart stuff	
<i>First section: Prologue, origins of the conflict, story of Candaules' wife</i>		
7	Section 1.1-1.4	
9		Book 1
12	No Class – Kirk sick	
14	No Class – Snow day	
16	2.1-4.1	
19	4.2-5.4	
21		Book 2
23	6.1-8.4	
26		Article: Robin Osborne, “Archaic Greek History”
28	9.1-11.1	
March 2	11.2-13.2	
5	14.1-15.1	
<i>Second Section: The rise and fall of Croesus, King of Lydia</i>		
7	23.1-24.8	
9		Book 3
12	Midterm #1 (1.1-15.1)	
14	25.1-28.1	
16	29.1-30.5	
19	31.1-32.2	
21	32.3-33.1	
23		Book 4
Mar.24-Apr. 1	Spring Break	
April 2	Breathe.	Article: Leslie Kurke, “Herodotus’ Traffic in Women” (maybe)
4	34.1-34.3	
Thursday, April 5	Attend lecture by Michelle Ronnick!	
6		Book 5
9	35.1-37.2	
11	37.3-42.2	
13		Book 6
16	43.1-45.5	
18	46.1-47.3	
20	48.1-49.1	Book 7
23	Catch up and review	Article: Thomas Harrison, “The Persian Invasions” <i>or</i> some other

		article, TBA.
25	Midterm #2	
<i>Third section: Cyrus' battle with Tomyris and the Massagetae</i>		
27	205.1-207.3	
30	207.4-209.4	
May 2	209.5-212.3	
4		Book 8
7	213.1-215.2	
9	216.1-5	
11	The Last Class	Book 9
Wed. May 16 at 11:00 am	Final Paper/project due	