

CLAG351 *Thucydides the Athenian*
Fall Semester / 2019

Course Instructor:

NAME: **Nanno Marinatos**
Distinguished Professor
of Liberal Arts and
Sciences,
University of Illinois
(emerita)/ CYA (currently)

HOURS AVAILABLE Before
and after class

Class Meetings:

DAY M/W

HOURS: 3:30-5:05

Course Description

The course will involve a close reading of the entire work of Thucydides in translation although certain key passages will be read in the original Greek. The focus will be twofold. First, we will look at Thucydides as an Athenian general who participated in the politics of his day, held strong opinions about his characters and presented a sort of memoir without losing sight of fairness. Second, we will be discussing his historical method in connection and his artistic skill. The synthesis will be to appreciate Thucydides as a scientist but also as a personality.

Because the course is based on such close reading and a lot of essay-writing, it will better prepare students for their professional careers. Needless to stress that it is ideal for majors in Classics, political science and pre-law students.

Some of the questions that will be addressed are:

What was the method and aims of Thucydides in writing this treatise which is unfinished?

What was his own political position and his moral values?

How does he structure his narrative so as to get his message across?

What is the role of careful planning and chance in human affairs Did he believe in the Order and Symmetry in History?

Did he have a Herodotean, macroscopic view of the historical process?

Course Resources and Activities

To investigate these questions, we will read, analyze and interpret the texts; often we will be discussing contemporary historical and political issues with references to contemporary scholarship. One essay every two weeks will be written and discussed.

Below we describe our explicit goals for your engagement with each of these modes of learning:

Reading: We will focus on the text itself with occasional discussions of secondary literature where we critically examine how Thucydides was perceived.

Analyzing and interpreting: We aim at close reading and individual interpretations but we also work and think with others. We build the class atmosphere in such a way that, all will participate in the common discussion.

Presentations: Each student will be expected to contribute essays and his/her opinions of the texts we read.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) completely master the text of Thucydides
- 2) Reflect on the historical process as described by Thucydides by using *his* templates or rejecting them.
- 3) Analyze sentences to extract subtle meanings
- 4) Evaluate the literary craft of the author, especially his ability to match character and speech, create suspension and set the stage for tragic events
- 5) Discuss the facts of the Peloponnesian war
- 6) Write precise essays

Course Requirements

Reading of assignments and attendance are mandatory. More than four absences lower your grade.

Participation is essential because the seminar is a group project. There will be no exams

But 4 essays of 5-6 pages each will be expected. Essays are based on close reading rather than research on secondary sources Estimate pages by spacing 2 and font size 12, Times New Roman.

Eight short essays of 3-5 pp each will be required. The topics will be:

- Compare Pericles to Archidamus.
- The author's values as inferred from his analysis of the Corcyrean stasis
- Justice and Expediency in the Plataean debate and the Melian Dialogue.
- Chance and Planning in the Pylos Affair
- Were the Athenians prudent to reject the Peace Offer of Sparta?
- Who was right? Nicias or Alcibiades?
- What is the function of the eclipse of the moon in the narrative?
- Humanity and Necessity in Nicias' last speeches. What is the Relation with the Funeral Oration?

Special Projects: Analysis of select passages in Greek

Exams:

- No Midterm or Final. The Essays will take the place of exams.

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

Exams/Papers/Participation/etc. 80% essays and 20% participation

Attendance: Students are expected to report for classes promptly. CYA regards attendance in class and on-site as essential. Absences are recorded and have consequences. Illness or other such compelling reasons which result in absences should be reported immediately in the Student Affairs Office.

Policy on Original Work: Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg. 9)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

Books, Course Materials, Moodle

STUDENTS WHO KNOW ANCIENT GREEK: PLEASE BRING ALSO A GREEK TEXT OF THUCYDIDES (OXFORD PREFERABLY) TO CLASS EVERY TIME

PLEASE USE REX WARNER'S TRANSLATION. PENGUIN

This Bibliography is for your personal use if you want to consult some books for your essays. Specific articles will be sent to you by e-mail.

Adkins, Arthur 1975. "The Arete of Nicias: Thucydides 7. 86", *GRBS* 16, 379-392.

Balot Ryan K., Sara Fordyce and Edith Foster eds. 2017. *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*. Oxford: OUP.

Bloedow, Edmund F. 1992. "Alcibiades 'brilliant' or 'intelligent'?" *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* 41, 139-157.

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Cochrane, Charles. *Thucydides and the Science of History*. 1929 London. Reprinted New York 1965: Russel and Russel.

Connor W. Robert 1984. *Thucydides*. Princeton.

Connor W. Robert 2018a. "Pericles on Democracy: Thucydides 2.37.1" *CW* 111, 2018, 165-175.

Connor W. Robert. 1977. "A Post-Modernist Thucydides?", *CJ* 72, 289-298.

Connor, W. Robert. 2018b. "A Vacuum at the Center", *American Scholar*, March 5, Spring 2018.

Connor, W. Robert. 2019. "When Hyperbole Enters Politics: What Can Be Learned From Antiquity and Our Hyperbolist-In-Chief", *Arion* 26. 3, 15-32.

Cornford, Francis MacDonald. *Thucydides Mythistoricus*. London 1907.

De Romilly, Jacqueline 1963. *Thucydides and Athenian Imperialism*. New York: Barnes and Noble.

Debnar, Paula, 2000. "Diodotus' Paradox and the Mytilene Debate" *Rheinisches Museum*, 143/2, 161-178.

Dover, K. J. 1973. *Thucydides*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Edmunds, Lowell 1975. *Chance and Intelligence in Thucydides*, Cambridge, Mass. 1975.

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Greenwood, Emily 2017. "Thucydides on the Sicilian Expedition" in Balot, Forsdyke and Foster, 161-177.

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- Kagan Donald 1987, *The Fall of the Athenian Empire*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
- Kallet Marx 1993. *Money, Expense, and Naval Power in Thucydides' History 1-5.24*. Berkley: University of California Press.
- MacLeod, Colin. C. 1983, "Thucydides and Tragedy", *Collected Essays*, 140-158.
- MacLeod, Colin. C. 1983, "Thucydides' Plataean Debate" GRBS 18 (1977) 227-246 = *Collected Essays* 1983, 103-122.
- MacLeod, Colin. C. 1983. Form and Meaning in the Melian Dialogue, *Collected Essays*.
- Marinatos Nanno 1980. "Nicias as a Wise Advisor and Tragic Warner in Thucydides" *Philologus* 124, 305-10.
- Marinatos, Nanno 1981a. *Thucydides and Religion*. Königstein Verlag.
- Marinatos, Nanno 2019. "Thucydides Apology about Amphipolis" forthcoming.
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- Rawlings Hunter R. III, 2010. "Thucydidean Epistemology", *Rheinisches Museum für Philologie*, Neue Folge, 153. Bd., H. 3/4, 247-290.
- Rawlings, Hunter R. III. *The Structure of Thucydides' "History"*. Princeton 1981: Princeton Legacy Library.
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Westlake, H. D 1974. "The Naval Battle at Pylos and Its Consequences", *Classical Quarterly* 24, 211-226.

Westlake, H. D. 1941. "Nicias in Thucydides", *Classical Quarterly* 35 (1941) 58-65.

Wilson, J. B 1982. "The Customary Meaning of Words Were changed- Or were they? A Note of Thucydides 3. 82. 4" *CQ* 32, 18-20.

Woodhead, A. G. 1960. "Thucydides' Portrait of Kleon", *Mnemosyne* 13, 289-317.

Class Schedule

Class Day	Day/Date	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
	Mon Sept 9	Book 1. 1-24. Introduction to Thucydides. Who is he 1.1 and 5. 26? What is his subject and method? 1. 1-21-23. Was the war inevitable (1.23)? Rawlings, "Thucydidean Epistemology", <i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i> , Neue Folge, 153. Bd., H. 3/4, 247-290.
	Wed Sept 11	Book 1 66-88; 118-125; 139-146. The beginning of the war. The accusations against Athens. Archidamus speech 1. 79-87. Pericles' speech 1. 140-146 Book 2 Invasion of Plataea and beginning of war 2. 3-33. Short Essay: Compare Pericles to Archidamus
	Mon Sept 16	Book 2. 36-46. Pericles' Funeral Oration. Book 2. 58-66. Pericles last Speeches and his Death. Evaluation of Pericles policy on the Empire.
	Mon Sept 23	Book 3. 37-51 Diodotus vs. Cleon in the Mytilenean Debate. Evaluation of the philosophy of each of the speakers. Is cruel punishment expedient in an empire?
6	Wed Sept 25	Book 3.70-85. The <i>stasis</i> (civil war) in Corcyra. Discussion of the Stasis. Suggested reading: Edmunds, Lowell B. 1975. "Thucydides' Ethics as Reflected in the Description of Stasis (3.82-83)", <i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i> 79, 73-92.

		Short Essay: Can we deduce the author's values from his description of stasis (civil war?) What are these values?
7	Mon Sept 30	Book 4. 1-41. The Pylos Affair: Chance or Intelligent Planning? Discussion of Hunter, Virginia 1973. <i>Thucydides: The Artful Reporter</i> . Toronto 1973: Hakkert. Optional Reading: Westlake, H. D 1974. "The Naval Battle at Pylos and Its Consequences", <i>Classical Quarterly</i> 24, 211-226.
8	Wed Oct 2	Book 4. 4. 16-23 The Pylos Affair (cont.). The Spartan Peace-offer. 4. 16-23. Were the Athenians prudent to reject it?
9	Mon Oct 7	Book 4. Pylos cont. The Debate between Nicias and Cleon. GUEST SPEAKER PROF. NIKOLAIDIS Readings: Anastasios Nikolaidis, "Thucydides 4. 28. 5".
	Wed Oct 9	Book 4. 42- 57 Nicias' success at Cythera. Spartan Loss of morale.
	Fri Oct. 11	Book 4 4. 75-88; 102-116; 130-35. Brasidas' successes The Spartan Truce: 4. 117-123. Nicias recaptures Mende and puts Perdicas in his place: 4. 130-135. Short Essay. Were the Athenians prudent to reject the Peace Offer of Sparta?
	Mon. Oct 14	Book 4. 102-107 and Book 5. 1-12. Battle of Amphipolis.
	Wed. Oct. 16	Nanno Marinatos, "Thucydides' Apology about Amphipolis" Book 5. 13-24. Peace of Nicias. Alcibiades vs. Nicias Book 5. 43-47.
	Mon Oct 21	Book 5 The Melian Dialogue. 5. 84-116. Go back and read: Siege of Plataea and Trial of Plataeans. 2.71-78; 3. 51-68 Short Essay: Expediency or Justice in Plataean Debate and Melian Dialogue? MacLeod, Colin. C. 1983, "Thucydides' Plataean Debate" GRBS 18 (1977) 227-246 = <i>Collected Essays</i> 1983, 103-122. --"Form and Meaning in the Melian Dialogue"
	Wed. Oct 23	Book 5. 14-48. The Peace of Nicias and Alcibiades' opposition to it.
	Mon Oct 28	OXI DAY. NO CLASS
	Wed Oct 30	Book 6. 1-32 Sicilian Expedition: The Debate between Nicias and Alcibiades.

	<p>Why did Nicias fail to persuade? Short Essay: -Who was right? Nicias or Alcibiades? Bloedow, Edmund F. 1992. "Alcibiades 'brilliant' or 'intelligent'?"</p>
Mon Nov 4	<p>Book 6. 44-71 The Siege of Syracuse. Attention will be paid to how Nicias was left alone and how excellently he conducted the Siege.</p>
Mon Nov 11	<p>Book 6. 72-88. Siege of Syracuse (cont.)</p>
Wed Nov 13	<p>Book 6. 88-93 Alcibiades in Sparta.</p>
Mon Nov 18	<p>Book 6. 6. 94- 105. The Siege of Syracuse and Nicias' strategy Discussion of H. D. Westlake. "Nicias in Thucydides". Evaluation of the Role of Alcibiades. Discussion: Is Westlake Fair to Nicias? Does he evaluate the Siege of Syracuse correctly?</p>
Wed Nov 20	<p>Book 7. Reversal of Athenian Fortunes. Gylippus' enterprises and his recapture of Epipolai. 7. 1-9 Nicias' letter to the Athenians 7. 10-18. Discussion: Note the Pylos motif and the issue of revenge in history.</p>
Mon Dec. 2	<p>Book 7. 21- 41 21-27. The Athenians loss of their Fortification on the Plemmyrium and get attacked at sea. The disaster at Mycalessus. - 7. 38-41. Naval battle at Syracusan harbour. Discussion: Note the Pylos motif again (7. 26)</p>
Wed Dec. 4	<p>Book 7 42ff Demosthenes' arrival 7. 42. His decision to attack Epipolai and his criticism of Nicias The disaster suffered by Demosthenes at Epipolai 7. 43- 75. The Eclipse of the Moon. Short Essay. What is the function of the Eclipse of the Moon in the narrative?</p>
Mon Dec. 9	<p>Book 7 Nicias' last speeches and comparison with the Funeral Oration. 7. 76-86. The retreat of the Athenian army. Suggested Reading. H. Rawlings. <i>The Structure of Thucydides' History</i>, Books 2 and 7. Short Essay: Humanity and Necessity in Nicias' last speeches. What is the Relation with the Funeral Oration?</p>
Wed Dec. 11	<p>Book 7-end The Death of Nicias and the End of Periclean Athens</p>

*Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on due date, unless noted otherwise on syllabus

