Course Description/ Objectives

Through the study of the available primary evidence – literary, epigraphic and archaeological – this course seeks to familiarize students with particular aspects of the history, culture and civilization of Ancient Macedon up to the age of Alexander the Great. Following a detailed examination of the main social, political and economic conditions and institutions that developed in Ancient Macedon during the Archaic and Classical periods, it then attempts to explore the main factors that led to the emergence of the Macedon State as the undisputed leader in Greek affairs by the 4th century BC. Special emphasis will be placed on the careers of Alexander I and of Philip II and their profound impact on the consolidation of Macedon power over Greece.

The second part of the course will deal exclusively with the reign of Alexander the Great. Through the use of primary sources, the course will closely follow Alexander’s campaigns in the East, with a detailed reference to certain aspects of his multi-faceted personality and to an assessment of his achievement and long lasting legacy. Special emphasis is given to topics that are central to modern political and intellectual debate.

The CYA field trip to Northern Greece will substantially enhance the in class component, as it will primarily focus on the investigation of the main sites associated with the emergence and subsequent development of the Kingdom of Macedonia through the Classical and early Hellenistic periods. Visits will include the site of Vergina (Aigai), the capitol of Macedonia until 399 BCE and burial place of the Macedonian ruling dynasty throughout and the site of Pella, the capitol of Ancient Macedonia after 399 BCE and birthplace of Philip II and Alexander III, where the primary emphasis will be on establishing the purpose and function of the principal political, economic, social and cultural institutions and norms in Ancient Macedonia before the accession of Alexander the Great; the site of Dion, the main sanctuary of the Ancient Macedonians, where aspects of Macedonian religious life and ritual will be further highlighted; the tombs at Lefkadia, that will provide an additional insight on the distinct change and evolution of Macedonian funerary architecture and burial customs in the aftermath of Alexander’s Persian campaigns; and, last, but not least, a visit to the purported school of Aristotle at the site of Mieza, where Alexander and many of his companions where tutored by the great master himself, to discuss aspects of intellectual and educational life in Ancient Macedonia at large. In addition, one day will be devoted to the visit of the major highlights of Ancient Thessaloniki, to explore its long standing history and tradition through the ages as one of the most important centers in Ancient Macedonia.
Essays – Assessment – Grades

Essays

Students will be expected to write one essay, of not more than 3,000 words, on subjects relevant to this course. Individual titles will have to be agreed after consultation with the instructor. Papers must be properly documented and should include an appended bibliography. Credit will be given for originality, i.e. illustrations, maps etc., personal observation and evidence of independent reading-research.

The deadline for the submission of the final essay is Friday, May 19.

Title proposals must be handed in at least one month before the respective deadline. No extensions will be granted.

Grades

The mid-term grade will be calculated on the basis of the mid-term exam (70%) and with regard to student’s attendance of and participation in classes (30%).

The final grade will be an average of the grade assigned for the final essay (30%), the grade assigned for both mid-term and final exams (50%) and of that assigned for class participation and attendance over the semester (20%).

Students are required to read and bring into class all relevant material pertaining to ancient sources, in particular Arrian, Diodorus, Curtius Rufus as well as any accompanying epigraphic or text evidence. The above material can be found in the electronic handouts that you will all receive at the beginning of the semester.

Class Attendance – Absences

Student attendance is mandatory. All absences must be excused by the administration and not the instructor. One unexcused absence may be allowed; each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a lowered participation grade.

Main Bibliography


Course Schedule

Monday, January 30
General Introduction
A brief overview of the history of Ancient Macedon. Establishing the basic chronological brackets and objectives of this course. The nature of the available evidence and the problems usually associated in its interpretation.

Wednesday, February 1
Macedonia, The Land
The general geography and the topographical realities of Ancient Macedon; its impact on the formation of the Macedon State. A brief History of Macedon from the Neolithic to the Archaic Age.

Monday, February 6
Macedonia, the People
The origins of the Macedonian people and the question of their ethnic identity; the Macedonian “language”; their early system of government; the economy; social and cultural norms and customs.

Wednesday, February 8
Ancient Macedon from the Archaic to the early Classical period
The age of Macedonian expansion explored through prevailing political, social, economic and cultural conditions and institutions. The problems/struggles associated with the emergence of the early Macedon State.
Hammond (1989), 1-42;
E. Borza, Ch. 1-3;
E-material: 15.
This bibliography accounts for classes 2-4.

Monday, February 13
“A Prince among barbarians and a barbarian among princes”
The age of Alexander I. Macedon during the Persian and Peloponnesian wars. The development of opposing cultural perceptions between Macedonia and the city states of Southern Greece.
E-material: 14-15.

Wednesday, February 15
Greece in the 4th century BC
The aftermath of the Peloponnesian Wars and the age of shifting hegemonies.
The rise of Sparta; the rise of Thebes. Ancient Macedon at the brink of collapse.
Sealey, 386-396, 404-410, 423-437;

Monday, February 20
The rise of Macedonia
The accession of Philip II. The early years of his reign (359-357 BC).
Hammond (1986), 533-541;
CAH, 723-736;
E-material 16.
**Wednesday, February 22**
The expansion of Macedon under Philip (357-346 BC)
The Social war, the third sacred war, the Olynthian war.
Hammond (1986), 542-551;
CAH, 736-751;
E-material 17.

**Wednesday, March 1**
The peace of Philocrates (346-338 BC)
The ever changing nature of the diplomatic and political relations between Macedon and the city states of Southern Greece.
Hammond (1986), 551-563;
CAH, 751-777;
Sealey, 469-494.

**Friday, March 3**
The battle of Chaeronia and its immediate aftermath
Hammond (1986), 563-570;
CAH, 777-789; E-material 18, 19.

**Monday, March 6**
The establishment of Macedonian rule/supremacy over Greece
Hammond (1986), 570-576;
E-material, 23-25.

**March 7-11**
Field trip to the Peloponnese (itinerary: Appendix I)

**Monday, March 13**
MID-TERM EXAM

**Wednesday, March 15**
The Accession of Alexander
The prevailing political and economic conditions in Macedon and Greece at the time of his accession. The elimination of all internal political opposition. Greek perceptions towards the new king of Macedon. Sources for the reign of Alexander: an evaluation.
Hammond (1986), 598-601;

**March 17-18**
Field trip to Delphi (itinerary at Appendix II)

**Monday, March 20**
Challenges from the North: Alexander’s campaigns in the Lower Danube area.
The submission of the Triballi, Getae and the Illyrian tribal confederations; the expansion of the Macedonian state.
Hammond (1980), 45-57;
**Wednesday, March 22**

**Alexander and Greece**
The Greek “uprising” of 335 BC. The formation of an anti-Macedon alliance. The major players. Alexander’s lightning campaign in Greece. The destruction of Thebes and its immediate aftermath.
Hammond (1980), 58-65; CAH, 794-797.

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**Monday, March 27**

**The war preparations for the expedition against Persia**
Facts, numbers and objectives.
Class handouts.

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**March 28 – April 1**

**Field trip to Northern Greece (itinerary: Appendix III)**

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**Monday, April 3**

**Alexander in the East; The Conquest of Asia Minor (Part I)**
Alexander crosses into Asia Minor. The strategic objectives. The battle of the Granicus River. The seizure of the Greeks city states in Asia Minor and the shifting of the balance of power in Alexander’s favor.
Hammond (1980), 66-82;
Hammond (1986), 601-611;
E-Material 29.

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**Wednesday, April 5**

**The Conquest of Asia minor (Part II)**
The battle of Issus and its aftermath. The conquest of Anatolia and the establishment of Macedonian rule.
Hammond (1980), 92-122;
E-Material 29

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**Wednesday, April 19**

**The King of Egypt - The Son of Ammon**
The conquest of Egypt. The journeys of Alexander in the Egyptian heartland. Meeting Divinity: His visit to the Oracle of Ammon at Siwah.

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**Monday, April 24**

**“Persia Capta”**
Alexander in Mesopotamia. The battle at Gaugamela. The dissolution of the Persian empire and Alexander’s proclamation as "King of Asia”.
Hammond (1986), 611-620;
Hammond (1980), 132-150;
CAH 805-818.

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**Wednesday, April 26**
The Journey Continues
Alexander’s offensives in Afghanistan. The conquest of Bactria. The crossing of the Indus river and the attempted conquest of India.
Hammond (1986), 621-34;
Hammond, (1980), 190-220;

Wednesday, May 3
The Final chapter
The last years of Alexander’s reign. The conquest of Southern Asia and the long journey home.
Hammond (1980), 221-245.

Monday, May 8
Alexander the Great: A fitting Epitaph
The achievement of Alexander: An assessment (Discussion in Class).
Hammond (1980), 246-273;
Hammond (1986), 634-642;
E-Material 30

Wednesday, May 10
Class Review.

Final Exam: TBA

Appendix I
Peloponnese
- Mycenae – Tuesday, March 7
- Pallamidi Castle (Nauplio) - Tuesday, March 7
- Ancient Nemea (site and museum) – Wednesday, March 8
- Epidaurus (site and museum) - Wednesday, March 8
- Mystras – Thursday, March 9
- Ancient Messene – Friday, March 10
- Olympia (site and museum) – Saturday, March 11

Appendix II
Delphi
- Ossios Loukas Monastery – Friday, March 17
- Delphi (site and museum) – Saturday, March 18

Appendix III
Northern Greece
- Ambelakia Village, Schwartz Mansion – Tuesday, March 28
Roman & Byzantine Thessaloniki (The Gallerius Complex, the Ancient Agora, Aghia Sofia church, Acheiropoiitos church, Agios Demetrios church) – Wednesday, March 29
Pella (site and museum), Lefkadia Tombs, Mieza – Thursday, March 30
Dion (site and museum) – Friday, March 31
Vergina (Aigai & Tombs) – Saturday, April 1
Thermopylae – Saturday, April 1