

**CLAG 305 Advanced Ancient Greek I: Thucydides  
Fall Semester 2023**

**Course Instructor**

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Office hours Monday/Wednesday 13:00-14:00  
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*Double-headed bust of Herodotus and Thucydides*  
Naples, Nat. Arch. Museum

## Required Text

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Selected chapters

## Recommended Text

Liddell H. G. & Scott R., *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*

Smyth H.W., *Greek Grammar*, Oxford 2010

## Course Description

This course is intended to introduce the student to the work of the great historian of Classical Athens, Thucydides. Thucydides is considered to be the first real historian who constructed his own work with "scientific" methods. His work remains the main account of the war fought between Athens and her allies and Sparta and her allies, a war that devastated the Greek world and led to the decline of the city-states in the Hellenistic period thus paving the way for the Roman conquest.

Thucydides is part of the war, which he relates. He contracted the deadly plague and recovered from it. As a general, in 424 failed in the task of saving Amphipolis from the Spartan general Brasidas and was exiled by democratic Athens. Unfortunately, his narration of events breaks off near the end of the 21st year of war.

Thucydides is often regarded as having written a generally unbiased account of the conflict with respect to the sides involved in it. However, no good historian is impartial, and Thucydides, certainly, has his tastes: he likes Pericles and dislikes Cleon (just as Aristophanes does) and in certain instances he appears to be pro-Athenian.

Unlike his predecessor Herodotus, religion and divine intervention have no active role in his work. He focuses on the facts rather than on hearsays. He makes use of accounts taken from personal witnesses, archives, inscriptions, and so on, and he also makes extensive use of speeches to elaborate on the events in question. Although he is a good representative of the pure Attic dialect, his prose is very challenging, grammatically, syntactically, and semantically, flavored with archaistic and poetical tones.

## Learning Objectives and Activities

It is the overall purpose of the course not only to improve your reading skills but also to make clear the role of the text in the history of Greece and the literature produced there. Having learned the basics of Ancient Greek at your home institutions, we will focus on improving your reading skills by translating as much Greek as possible and at the same time expanding your knowledge of the grammar and syntax of the language. Therefore, exams in writing, exercises on the board and sight-reading will be important components of the course.

We will also examine the author's methodology, language, and style in comparison to that of contemporary authors. Aspects pertaining to the place of the text in its historical context will also be addressed: how does the work relate to the events of the period during which it was written, what was its purpose, does it reflect the values of the society and its people, what values are those, what are the author's political views, and so on. For that reason, discussion of modern scholarship will be a basic component of the course.

Try to allow about 2-2.30 hours per night for homework. The more study time put in early on, the less pain and suffering later on. You are encouraged to consult with the instructor on all matters pertaining to the course: difficulties in mastering the language and grammar, complications in proceeding through the materials of the course.

## Course Requirements and Exams

**Class Attendance:** Ancient Greek is a difficult language to master and CYA regards attendance in class as essential. Therefore, it is highly important that you attend class. You are expected to report for classes promptly. 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.

**Participation:** Your participation and proper conduct are vitally important to your success in this course: they are expected and **graded**. You are expected to have all assignments completed (translation, review of modern scholarship, and so on) before you come to class. Do not be afraid to ask questions, volunteer to translate, or answer questions.

**Exams:** There will be six quizzes and a midterm exam. Each quiz will cover the previous reading assignment

translated in class. It will consist of translation (one passage, ca. 10 lines long) and syntax questions. The lowest quiz will be dropped. The midterm exam will consist of the translation of 4 out of 5 passages already discussed in class, 15 lines long each, the sight translation of a short passage, for which some vocabulary will be given, and syntax questions.

**N.B. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY FOR VALID EXCUSES.**

Research Paper and Presentation:

Students are expected to write one research paper of about 3000 words (Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced) excluding bibliography. Students can choose their own topic or select one in discussion with the instructor. Individual titles and bibliography will be agreed after consultation. You are encouraged to discuss research topics with the instructor by **late September** (at the very latest).

The paper will be graded on:

- originality of thought
- critical analysis of an aspect or aspects of the work
- clarity of argument and structure
- variety of evidence and bibliography used

Students are also expected to make an oral presentation of their topic in class. That should not be more than 15 minutes long, and you should be ready to answer questions and discuss issues pertaining to your topic with the instructor and your colleagues.

Those who wish to turn in rough drafts of their papers for consultation are welcomed to do so by **Friday, December 1**.

The deadline for the submission of the final research paper is **Friday, December 15**.

### Grading and Evaluation

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

30% Research Paper  
10% Paper Presentation  
25% Midterm  
20% Quizzes  
10% Participation  
5% Attendance

### Grading Scale

|           |          |          |          |       |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| A+ 100-98 | B+ 89-87 | C+ 79-77 | D+ 69-67 | F 59- |
| A 97-93   | B 86-83  | C 76-73  | D 66-63  |       |
| A- 92-90  | B- 82-80 | C- 72-70 | D- 62-60 |       |

**Please note: in the name of fairness to all students, there will be no extra points awarded, even if you are very close to a higher letter grade.**

### 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.

### Class Schedule

| Class Week | Day/Date      | Assignment                         | Other Events   |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1          | Aug 28-Sept 3 |                                    | Field Study: Delphi (Sept 2-3)                             |
| 2          | Sept 4-10     |                                    |  |
| 3          | Sept 11-17    |                                    | Field Study: Crete (Sept 13-16)                            |
| 4          | Sept 18-24    | Quiz 1 (Sept 18)                   | Optional Trip: Andros (Sept 22-24)                         |
| 5          | Sept 25-Oct 1 | Quiz 2 (Sept 27)                   |  |
| 6          | Oct 2-8       |                                    | Optional Trip: Metsovo, Ioannina & Meteora (Oct 6-8)       |
| 7          | Oct 9-15      | Quiz 3 (Oct 9)                     | Reading Day (Oct 13)                                       |
| 8          | Oct 16-22     | Midterm Exam (Oct 18)              |  |
| 9          | Oct 23-29     | NO CLASS                           | - Fall Break (Oct 20-29)<br>- National Holiday: October 28 |
| 10         | Oct 30-Nov 5  | - Paper Presentation (Nov 1)       | Optional Trip: Rome (Nov 3-5)                              |
| 11         | Nov 6-12      |                                    | Field Study: Peloponnese (Nov 7-11)                        |
| 12         | Nov 13-19     | Quiz 4 (Nov 13)                    |  |
| 13         | Nov 20-26     | Quiz 5 (Nov 22)                    | Thanksgiving Break (Nov 23-26)                             |
| 14         | Nov 27-Dec 3  | - Deadline for paper draft (Dec 1) |  |
| 15         | Dec 4-10      | Quiz 6 (Dec 4)                     | Reading Day (Dec 8)  |

**Deadline for submission of final paper: Friday, December 15**

N.B.: *Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research*

## Select Bibliography

Cartwright D., *A Historical Commentary on Thucydides: a companion to Rex Werner's Penguin translation*, Ann Arbor 1997

De Ste. Croix G.E.M., *The Origins of the Peloponnesian War*, Ithaca N.Y. 1972

Gomme A.W.-Dover K.J.-Andrewes A., *A Historical Commentary on Thucydides*, Oxford 1945; 1956

Grundy G.B., *Thucydides and the History of his Age*, Oxford 1948

Hornblower S., *Thucydides*, London 1987

Hornblower S., *A Commentary on Thucydides*, Oxford 1991

Kagan D., *The Outbreak of the Peloponnesian War*, Ithaca N.Y. 1969

Kagan D., *The Peloponnesian War*, New York 2003

Kagan D., *Thucydides: the Reinvention of History*, New York 2009

Parry A., *Logos and Ergon in Thucydides*, Salem N.H. 1981

Romilly J. de, *Thucydides and Athenian Imperialism*, Oxford 1963

Woodhead A.G., *Thucydides on the Nature of Power*, Cambridge 1970

## N.B.

**The use of cell phones is prohibited during class time. You may use your computers but ONLY for class-related purposes.**

**Food is not allowed in classrooms. Beverages are permitted, but be sure to clean up any mess you make.**