

CLAG 305 | Advanced Ancient Greek I: Thucydides Fall 2024

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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 he 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).

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 Goals

This course will primarily teach students to:

- Improve their reading of a known text
- Be comfortable with sight reading
- Recognize grammatical forms
- Analyze the syntax of simple and complex sentences
- Examine the language and dialect features of the ancient text
- Place the text in its historical and cultural context
- Recognize the role of the text in the history of Greece and the literature produced there
- Read and review modern scholarship and show where they stand with respect to it
- Write an academic paper using both ancient sources and modern scholarship

Course Requirements and Assessment

CYA Attendance Policy

Ancient Greek is a difficult language to master and CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Class Contribution 15% – Class Contribution includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, participation in class discussions. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining your grade for the semester. You are expected to have all assignments completed (translation, review of modern scholarship, and so on) before you come to class.

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. Do not be afraid to ask questions, volunteer to translate or answer questions.

Quizzes Exam 20% – There will be six quizzes. Each quiz will cover the previous reading assignment translated in class. It will consist of translation (one passage, ca. 10 lines long), grammar and syntax exercises. The lowest quiz will be dropped.

Midterm Exam 25% – This 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 grammar and syntax questions.

Research Paper 30% – 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

Paper Presentation 10% – 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 6**.

The deadline for the submission of the final research paper is **Friday, December 20**.

Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

I will accept no late assignments or make-up exams except for valid excuses that will be communicated to me in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know beforehand.

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.

CYA Policies and Regulations

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

ePolicy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that is neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

Use of Laptops

In-class or onsite use of laptops and other devices is permitted if this facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if devices are not used for class-related work.

N.B. The use of cell phones is prohibited during class time.

Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This constitutes usually 25% additional work on the part of the student. The option to upgrade opens the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please talk to your professor.

Required Readings

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

Recommended Texts

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

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

Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)
	Sep 5-7	Field Study Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Sep 9	
2	Sep 11	
3	Sep 16	Quiz 1
	Sep 18-21	Field Study Crete
4	Sep 23	
5	Sep 25	Quiz 2
6	Sep 30	
7	Oct 2	
8	Oct 7	Quiz 3
9	Oct 9	
10	Oct 14	Quiz 4
11	Oct 16	
12	Oct 21	Midterm Exam
13	Oct 23	
	Oct 25-Nov 3	Fall Break
14	Nov 4	
15	Nov 6	Quiz 5
16	Nov 11	Paper Presentation
	Nov 12-15	Field Study Peloponnese
17	Nov 18	
18	Nov 20	
19	Nov 25	Quiz 6
20	Nov 27	
21	Dec 2	
22	Dec 4	
23	Dec 9	
24	Dec 11	
FEW	Dec 20	Deadline for Submission of Final Paper

Course 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