

**FALL (2024) – HIST 358**

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**DAYS AND TIMES OF CLASS MEETINGS:** TUESDAY / THURSDAY 15.30 TO 17.05 (VK-2)

**Office hours:** 17.15–18.15

## **Greek Literature under Roman Rule**

### **Course Description**

Roman rule came as a shock to Greece, but Greek culture was resilient, and Greek literature continued to thrive. Greek authors diagnosed how Rome won, while they continued to claim intellectual leadership, and eventually and increasingly came to view themselves as co-regents of empire. Although neglected in comparison with classical literature, the Greek literature of the imperial period not only survives in surprising abundance, it also offers fascinating perspectives on what it meant to be Greek and/or a Roman Greek in that period. Our primary aim in this course will be to trace the development of Greek literature (in English translation) under Roman domination from 146 BCE to the establishment of Constantinople as the empire's capital in CE 330 and the death of the last pagan emperor Julian in CE 363. We will proceed roughly chronologically with emphasis especially on the genres of historiography (Polybius, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Aelian), biography (Plutarch), rhetoric (especially such second Sophistic authors as Philostratus and Aristides), philosophy & science (Epictetus, Galen), the ancient novel (Xenophon of Ephesus), and poetry (Epigrams of the *Greek Anthology*). We will interpret these categories broadly, however, in order to include contemporary Christian writing, such as, for example, the *Gospels* (under biography) as well as John Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzus (together with such later rhetoricians as Libanius and the emperor Julian himself).

### **Learning Goals**

**This course will primarily teach students to:**

- become familiar with and understand literary developments in the Greek world from the beginning of Roman domination in 146 BCE to the foundation of Constantinople in CE 330 and the death of the emperor Julian in CE 363.
- discuss their own ideas and interpretations of ancient Greek literature of the imperial period in a seminar-like setting.
- investigate what it meant to be Greek and/or a Roman Greek after the loss of Greek political independence.
- learn the parameters and purposes of the wide range of literary genres that flourished among Greek speakers during imperial period.
- view Christian literature as a contemporary development alongside pagan literature as well as an integral piece of Greek literary history.

- present short reports to their colleagues on topics relevant to class readings.
- find relevant topics of research that they can sustain over the course of the semester.
- write a properly formatted and documented research paper.

## **Course Requirements and Assessment**

### **CYA Attendance Policy**

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.

#### • **Attendance (10%)**

Your **attendance grade** reflects your physical presence, and is based on a simple percentage: the number of classes attended divided by total number of classes. If you appear after the instructor has called the roll, you will be counted “tardy.” Three tardies = one absence. N.B. Only absences documented/justified as indicated above will be counted as excused.

#### • **Class Discussion (20%)**

Class discussion requires mental presence, preparation, participation in class discussions, and posting occasionally on the Moodle forum. ***Reading assignments are to be completed before each class session.*** Class contributions are one of the most important factors for determining your final grade. I expect you to come prepared to engage in discussions, to ask questions, and to express your opinions. If you are extremely uncomfortable speaking in front of your classmates, you may send your opinions or additional thoughts in writing by email. If you neither participate in class discussions nor send thoughts by email, your discussion grade will be low.

#### • **Short Reports (20%)**

You will occasionally be asked to prepare reports on secondary scholarship. These reports should provide an overview of the assigned article or book chapter, including its topic, methods, evidence, and your assessment of its interpretations. You are ***not*** required to agree with everything that you read! Please prepare a handout that includes a full bibliographical citation as well as a one-page synopsis. If you do not have access to a printer, please send me your handout the day before you are scheduled to present, so I have time to print copies for the class.

#### • **Midterm Exam (15%)**

Identification of authors, works, passages, characters, genres, themes together with one or two essays. I will offer sample essay questions in advance.

#### • **Final Exam (20%)**

Identification of authors, works, passages, characters, genres, themes together with one or two essays. I will offer sample essay questions in advance.

#### • **Final Paper (15%)**

A six to twelve-page research paper (not including bibliography).

## **Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work**

Late assignments may be submitted at any time before the end of the term, but a penalty of ten points will be assessed for work submitted late *without prior approval* or documentation from CYA.

## **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 course.

### **Site Visits and Accessibility**

-This course may include occasional visits to museums or other culturally relevant sites in Athens. If you feel that you are physically unable to participate, please notify me, so we can work out an alternative assignment (e.g., a virtual visit).

-This course requires students to make oral presentations in front of the class. If this is something that you absolutely cannot do for reasons of mental health, please provide documentation per the policy on academic accommodations, and we will work out an alternative mode of presentation.

### **Policy 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 if the idea is neither common knowledge nor your own. 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**

Please refrain from use of laptops during class discussions, unless the instructor requests that you use them for finding passages, looking up references, searching for bibliography, etc.

### **Upgrade to 400-level course**

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This usually constitutes 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**

All required readings will be available in pdf format through our course Moodle.

**Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule**

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
<b>Sep 5-7</b>		<b>Field Study   Delphi and Ancient Olympia</b>
1	Sep 10	<p><b><u>Introductions.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Structure of course.</li> <li>•Chronology &amp; and a literary survey.</li> <li>•Preliminary assignment of initial reports.</li> </ul>
2	Sep 12	<p><b><u>Understanding Defeat: Why Rome? Why not Greece?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Polybius <i>Histories</i> Book 6 (Roman Constitution) &amp; Fragments of Books 38 &amp; 39 (Conquests of Carthage &amp; Corinth).</li> <li>•Finlay, G. (1877). <i>Greece Under the Romans B.C. 146 – A.D. 716</i>, pp. 1-61.</li> </ul>
3	Sep 17	<p><b><u>Were the Romans Greek?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Polybius <i>Histories</i> Book 6 (Roman Constitution) &amp; Fragments of Books 38 &amp; 39 (Conquests of Carthage &amp; Corinth).</li> <li>•Finlay, G. (1877). <i>Greece Under the Romans B.C. 146 – A.D. 716</i>, pp. 1-61.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 18-21</b>		<b>Field Study   Crete</b>
4	Sep 24	<p><b><u>Comparing Greeks and Romans</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Plutarch <i>Theseus, Romulus, Lycurgus</i>.</li> </ul>
5	Sep 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Plutarch <i>Numa, Solon, Publicola</i>.</li> </ul>
6	Oct 1	<p><b><u>History without Chronology</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Aelian <i>Historical Miscellany</i>.</li> <li>•Plutarch <i>The Obsolescence of Oracles..</i></li> </ul>
7	Oct 3	<p><b><u>Philosophy to Live By</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Plutarch <i>Theseus, Romulus, Lycurgus</i>.</li> </ul>
8	Oct 8	<p><b><u>The Long Afterlife of Diogenes of Sinope</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Diogenes Laertius <i>Lives of the Eminent Philosophers</i> Book 6.20-81 “Diogenes of Sinope.”</li> <li>•Dio Chrysostom <i>Discourse 8: On Virtue</i>.</li> <li>•Maximus of Tyre <i>Dissertation 20</i> “Whether the Life of a Cynic is to be Preferred.”</li> </ul>
9	Oct 10	<p><b><u>Ancient Medicine.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Galen <i>On Natural Faculties</i> Book 1.</li> </ul>

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
10	Oct 15	<b><u>Ideal Greece. Ideal Rome.</u></b> •Aelian Aristides <i>Panathenaic Oration, Roman Oration.</i>
11	Oct 17	<b><u>The View (in Greek Translation) from Roman Judaea.</u></b> • <i>Gospel of Luke &amp; Acts (New Testament).</i> • <i>Revelation (New Testament).</i>
12	Oct 22	<b><u>The Satires of Lucian</u></b> •Lucian <i>Alexander the False Prophet.</i> •Lucian <i>The Passing of Peregrinus.</i>
13	<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Midterm Examination.</b>
	<b>Oct 25-Nov 3</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
14	Nov 5	<b><u>A Miraculous Life.</u></b> •Philostratus <i>Life of Apollonius</i> (abridged).
15	Nov 7	<b><u>Everyday Life.</u></b> •Alciphron <i>Letters</i> (selections).
	<b>Nov 12-15</b>	<b>Field Study   Peloponnese</b>
16	Nov 19	<b><u>The Adventures of True Love.</u></b> •Xenophon of Ephesus <i>Anthia &amp; Habrocomes.</i>
17	Nov 21	<b><u>Imperial Dining.</u></b> •Athenaeus <i>Deipnosophists</i> Book 6.
18	Nov 22	<b><u>Salvation History.</u></b> •Eusebius <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> (excerpts from Books 1-3 Jesus–Trajan). •Finlay, G. (1877). <i>Greece Under the Romans B.C. 146 – A.D. 716</i> , pp. 91-138.
19	Nov 26	<b><u>A New Religion Flexes its Muscles.</u></b> •Eusebius <i>Life of Constantine.</i> •John Chryostom <i>Against the Theaters and Circuses.</i>
	<b>Nov 28-Dec 1</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
20	Dec 3	<b><u>Pagans versus Christians.</u></b> •Julian <i>Hymn to Helios, Hym to the Mother of the Gods.</i>
21	Dec 5	•Julian <i>Against the Galilaeans, Fragment of a Letter to a Priest.</i>

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
22	Dec 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Libanius <i>Funeral Oration for Julian</i>.</li> <li>•Finlay, G. (1877). <i>Greece Under the Romans B.C. 146 – A.D. 716</i>, pp. 139-192.</li> </ul>
23	Dec 10	<p><b><u>Christians and Pagan Epigram.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<i>Epigrams from the Greek Anthology</i> (selections).</li> </ul>
24	Dec 12	<b><u>Final Thoughts.</u></b>
	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b>
	<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b>

**Schedule at a Glance**

Day #	Date	Session	Venue
	<b>Sep 5-7</b>	<b>Field Study</b>	<b>Delphi and Ancient Olympia</b>
1	Sep 10	Introductions.	VK-2
2	Sep 12	Why Rome?	VK-2
3	Sep 17	Were Romans Greek?	VK-2
	<b>Sep 18-21</b>	<b>Field Study</b>	<b>Crete</b>
4	Sep 24	Comparing Greeks & Romans.	VK-2
5	Sep 26	Comparing Greeks & Romans (cont.)	VK-2
6	Oct 1	History without Chronology.	VK-2
7	Oct 3	Philosophy for Life.	VK-2
8	Oct 8	Diogenes (x 3)!	VK-2
9	Oct 10	Ancient Medicine.	VK-2

Day #	Date	Session	Venue
10	Oct 15	Idealized Greece & Rome.	VK-2
11	Oct 17	The View from the Provinces.	VK-2
12	Oct 22	Satires of Lucian.	VK-2
13	<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	VK-2
	<b>Oct 25-Nov 3</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	
14	Nov 5	A Miraculous Life.	VK-2
15	Nov 7	Everyday Life (in Letters).	VK-2
	<b>Nov 12-15</b>	<b>Field Study</b>	<b>Peloponnese</b>
16	Nov 19	The Adventures of True Love.	VK-2
17	Nov 21	Imperial Dining.	VK-2
18	<b>Nov 22</b>	Salvation History.	VK-2
19	Nov 26	A New Religion Takes Charge.	VK-2
	<b>Nov 28-Dec1</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
20	Dec 3	Pagans versus Christians I.	VK-2
21	Dec 5	Pagans versus Christians II.	VK-2
22	Dec 6	Pagans versus Christians III.	VK-2
23	Dec 10	Christian and Pagan Epigram.	VK-2
24	Dec 12	Final Thoughts.	VK-2
	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b>	

Day #	Date	Session	Venue
	Dec 19	Final Exam Week	

### Course Bibliography

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