

HISTORY OF EUROPE 160:
PERSUASION AND SOCIAL ORDER IN CLASSICAL GREECE

SPRING 2017

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Purpose: In this course students will examine and evaluate the legal system of Athens in the “classical period,” especially the 4th century BC. Beginning in the late 6th century BC, the Athenian city-state developed and implemented the first recorded democracy in western history, and they held the rule of law as expressed in their court system to be a fundamental prerequisite for true “rule by the people.” Upon closer study we will find that, even though they had many strikingly modern conceptions of equality and accountability, the Athenians thought about the function of courts and their role in society very differently than we do. For this reason studying the detailed mechanisms of their legal system and its presuppositions can help us to critically reflect upon our own situation.

Assignments

Fact Quiz 1 – terminology, definitions, drawn **from the readings**.

Fact Quiz 2 – same (**not** cumulative)

Seminar “Deposition”

Paper Abstract

Abstract Review

Final paper

Grading

20% - 2 Quizzes

20% - Deposition

10% - Abstract

10% - Abstract Review

20% - Final Paper

20% - In-Class Participation

Seminar Deposition: This assignment has two main purposes. The first and main purpose is for you to enrich the seminar’s discussion with perspectives drawn from further readings beyond the syllabus. The second purpose is to give you the opportunity to explore a topic for the final paper. Your Seminar Deposition should be approximately **fifteen minutes** long, and be focused around **a single primary text which we have all read for the week** though you may of course make reference to other texts on and off the syllabus. Your task is to introduce us to some **scholarly debates** – and to **take a position** somehow on the text and its interpretation. Sign up as soon as you have an idea of when you’d like to present, as there will be a maximum of two depositions per class.

Abstracts: Each student will prepare a 300 word abstract of their proposed final paper in the 9th week (10% of Grade). Abstracts will include an annotated bibliography (not included in the word count) of at least 6 scholarly works not found on the syllabus. Each student will then offer

feedback and constructive **criticism** on all of their classmates' abstracts. The "feedback" will be directed at suggestions for an effective final paper, while the "criticism" will be aimed more narrowly at improving the 300 word abstract itself.

Final Paper: On a topic of your choice, determined in consultation with me. At least 8 pages and no more than 10, double-spaced (this count does not include your bibliography).

Laptop Policy: Keep them shut during class time. This will reassure your fellow seminar participants that you are doing everything you can to be mentally present with them.

READINGS

(should be completed before class for the week they are listed)

April 4 (Week 1) – Introduction; Who Killed Socrates?

Plato, *Apology* (course packet)

Plato, *Crito* (course packet)

Suggested: Plato, *Phaedo*, Selections

April 11 (Week 2) – Athenian Law and Athenian Democracy

Pseudo-Xenophon (= "Old Oligarch") *Constitution of the Athenians* (course packet)

Aristotle, *Constitution of Athens* Selections (course packet)

The World of Athens 7-43; 200-230 (Blackboard)

April 18 (Week 3) - Citizenship and Sexuality

MacDowell Ch. 5, 6 (67-108); 13 (203-211)

Demosthenes 57, *Against Eubulides*

Lysias 23, *Against Pancleon*

Demosthenes 59, *Against Neaira*,

Aeschines 1, *Against Timarchus*

(All in Gagarin 115-243)

-SEMINAR DEPOSITIONS BEGIN-

April 25 (Week 4) – Homicide and Assault

MacDowell Ch 4 (53-66), 7, (109-122); 16 (235-259).

Antiphon 1, *Against the Stepmother*

Antiphon 5, *On the Murder of Herodes*

Lysias 1, *On the Death of Eratosthenes*

Demosthenes 54, *Against Conon*

Lysias 3, *Against Simon*

(Gagarin 15-16; 44-109)

May 2 - **Week 5** – Oresteia

FACT QUIZ 1

Meineck, Intro

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers*

Aeschylus, *Eumenides*

May 9 – **Week 6** – Family and Property

MacDowell 9 (133-154)

Isaeus 1, *On the Estate of Cleonymus*

Isaeus 7, *On the Estate of Apollodorus*

Isaeus 8, *On the Estate of Ciron*

Lysias 32, *Against Diogeiton*

Demosthenes 27, *Against Aphobus*

(=Gagarin 245-319)

May 16 – **Week 7** – Commerce and the Economy

MacDowell 10 (155- 174); 15 (220-234)

Demosthenes 55, *Against Callicles*

Hyperides 3, *Against Athenogenes*

Lysias 24, *For the Disabled Man*

Isocrates 17, *Trapeziticus*

Demosthenes 35, *Against Lacritus*

(= Gagarin 321- 386)

May 23 – **Week 8** – Rhetoric and Education

Antiphon 2, *First Tetralogy* (Gagarin 17-27)

Plato, *Phaedrus*

Isocrates, *Against the Sophists* (course packet)

Isocrates, *Antidosis* (course packet).

May 30 – **Week 9** – Law and Politics

MacDowell 11 (175-191)

Aeschines 3, *Against Ctesiphon* (course packet) [Selections TBA]

Demosthenes 18, *On the Crown* (course packet) [Selections TBA]

FACT QUIZ 2
ABSTRACTS DUE

June 6 - **Week 10** – The End of Athenian Law and The Rhetorical Tradition

-Readings TBA

ABSTRACT REVIEWS DUE