

WORLD CIVILIZATION: Ancient

Roger Soiset, M.A.
Spring 2007
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: History 1111/01H, CRN# 8334
ROOM: J-130, Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:00-11:15 am.
OFFICE/hours: J321 (Tel 678/915-3990) between 9-10am MW; and 8-10am Tuesdays (or by appt). E-mail address: RSoiset@SPSU.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS: The Portable Greek Historians, ed. M.I. Finley; The War with Hannibal, by Livy; The Rise of the Roman Empire, by Polybius; The Secret History, by Procopius; and The Chronicles of the Barbarians (ISBN 0-965-067202), ed. David McCullough.*
HOLIDAYS: Monday Sept. 3 (Labor Day); Thursday November 22 (Thanksgiving).

COURSE OUTCOME: Students will be able to identify the main materials and sources historians use to construct the histories of past civilizations; recognize the central beliefs of the world's major religions; explain internal and external factors that influence the development of civilization; explain how technological change influenced such development; and how the great civilizations of the past continue to influence our world. Since this course deals almost exclusively with primary sources, it strives to supplement traditional course education with familiarity with the first writers of history. Critical analysis and creative thinking in the course of discussion and dissection of these original works are the goals; oral and written communication demonstrating these skills will benefit the students across the board throughout their lives.

DISCUSSIONS/MAIN TOPICS:

Herodotus-(sections from Book I, II, VII and VIII)
Thucydides-(sections from books I, II, III, VI and VII)
Xenophon-The Anabasis (sections from books I, II, III, IV)
Polybius-sections from The Rise of the Roman Empire; Chronicles
Livy-sections from The War with Hannibal; Chronicles
Aeschylus-The Persians**
Procopius-The Secret History; Chronicles
Julius Caesar-Chronicles
Diodorus Siculus-Chronicles
Ammianus Marcellinus-Chronicles
Edward Gibbon-Chronicles

"The Battle of Maldon" (anonymous in Chronicles)
The Annals of St. Bertin-Chronicles
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 994-1016-Chronicles
Ibn Fadlan-Chronicles
Geraldus Cambrensis-Chronicles
Juvaini-Chronicles
C.De Brida-Chronicles
Chronicle of Novgorod (anonymous in Chronicles)
Matthew Paris-Chronicles
Ahmed Ibn Mohammed Ibn Arabshah-Chronicles
Johann Schiltberger-Chronicles
Robert the Monk-Chronicles
"The Capture of Jerusalem"-anonymous and Raymond of Le Puy
Doukas-Chronicles

Grade Components:

Attendance***...20%
Participation...40%
Written papers...40%

*This book might have to be ordered through Amazon, as the SPSU bookstore was unable to obtain it through its buyers.

**Aeschylus may be the subject of a play attended off campus. If this is approved, we will do a comparison of his "The Persians" to the story recorded by Herodotus in "The Second Persian War". Copies of these will be provided by the instructor.

***All students start out with all 20 points. Each unexcused absence results in a ten-point deduction from the course average. After two such absences, this category becomes a negative. Example: three unexcused absences means the highest possible course grade would be a 70.

Final Exam—there will be no final in this course. The last day of class (December 6) will be our final meeting.