2015

GREK 361 History of Greek Literature: War and Society - Honors

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GREEK 361 History of Greek Literature: War and Society – Honors

Dr. Thomas E. Strunk

WF 3:00–4:15
Fall 2015
CLC 531

Office: Schott 810        513-745-1930
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00, T 2:00–3:00     strunkt@xavier.edu (or by
appointment)

“War is a violent teacher.” Thucydides 3.82.2

Objectives and Procedures
This course will be a study of war and society in ancient Greece with a special focus on Homer’s 
Iliad. We will also be reading a handful of other authors in both Greek and English, including 
Archilochus, Sophocles, Thucydides, and Euripides. To help us in our understanding of war in society in 
ancient Greece, we will be reading a number of modern studies in English; these will be central to our 
work in this class and will include Simone Weil, Captain Andrews, and Jonathan Shay. A key component 
to this course will be a comparative approach to warfare ancient and modern and its effects on society. A 
number of guests will visit our class who will share their personal experiences of war. Note that this 
course is not a class on military history as such, but on the soldier and the non–combatant and their 
experiences of war.

The minimum requirement for this course is to have done the translations and readings ahead of 
time and to be prepared to translate in class and to discuss with intellectual rigor the assigned reading.
Translations must not be written out and vocabulary must not be written in the text. Vocabulary 
notes should be written on a separate piece of paper and only referred to when necessary. 
Remember, the better prepared you are for class the better class will be for all.

By the end of this course, students who read the assignments, participate in the discussions, and 
complete the assignments will be able to:
• read selections of Greek poetry and prose with facility
• demonstrate an understanding of the differences between Homeric and Attic Greek dialects
• demonstrate mastery of the rules of ancient Greek syntax
• demonstrate an increased Greek vocabulary
• analyze the ancient and modern understandings of warfare and its effects on soldiers and non–
  combatants
• utilize research tools for Classical research in analog and digital formats
• present ideas orally with technological aids for review by peers and instructor
• show improved college-level writing skills by writing a 10-20 page research paper, pursuing an 
  original idea formulated in collaboration with the instructor
• accurately and fairly evaluate the work of others

Texts
Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character. Jonathan Shay. New York: 
Handouts and readings on the course page.
Assignments and Examinations

Exams: 2 @ 20% each = 40%
Reflection Papers: 6 @ 5% each = 30%
Research Paper: 30% divided as follows –4% prospectus and bibliography, 12% rough draft, 4% peer review, 10% final draft.

NB: There will be no incompletes. The research paper needs to be submitted to TurnItIn; I will not accept papers by email. Assignments turned in late will be dropped a letter grade for each day they are late.

Exams: There will be two exams. Exams must be taken on the date assigned. There will be no make-up exams without a doctor’s note.

Reflection Papers: For the readings in translation you will be given an essay prompt for reflection. Reflections must be more than one page, but no more than three. There will be multiple opportunities for writing reflection papers, but you will only have to do six. Whether you write a reflection for the assigned reading or not, you will still be responsible for having read the assignment. You will be required to write a reflection when Captain Brandon Andrews visits class.

Research Paper: Consider this paper as an opportunity to explore a topic that interests you and to compose a written essay wherein you demonstrate to yourself and to your instructor how well you can state what you know and how well you can analyze and interpret evidence.

Topics: Any topic related to the general themes treated in this course is appropriate. You are constrained not by what I think is a good topic, but by what you can reasonably do in the time permitted and by the resources available. Confine your topic to manageable proportions! For example: “PTSD in Greek Literature” is too big – a somewhat more suitable topic might be “PTSD in Sophocles’ Ajax.” Likewise, “War in Ancient Greece” is also too broad, but there is enough evidence to do a good, brief paper on some aspect of war in ancient Greece. You need not write a paper on a specific topic; instead, you may choose to write a critical book review, wherein you compare and contrast two (or more) modes and methods of presenting and interpreting topics pertinent to this course. You must meet with me before your prospectus is due to discuss your topic.

Evaluation, Scope and Format: Your paper will be graded for content, clarity, and accuracy of written expression. Your paper must be between 10-20 double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, one-inch margined pages with page numbers in the lower right corner. Your paper should include, as appropriate, footnotes and references in HAB format and style, which I will provide to you. Internet–only sources must be pre-approved.

Schedule: October 16th submit a 1-2 page statement of your intended topic. This needs to be more than a paragraph. Include a bibliography with a minimum of 10 items that you have already examined relevant to your paper, which were not assigned as class reading. On-line sources need to be pre-approved. The prospectus and bibliography will count for 4% of your grade.

November 20th submit a draft of your paper. You should think of this as the final version of your paper. I shall read and annotate your paper (as soon as I can), then we shall discuss your draft and how and in what ways it should be revised. Your paper must be submitted to TurnItIn by 5:00 pm. The rough draft will count for 12% of your grade.

December 4th comments on your peers are due. The peer reviews will count for 4% of your grade. We will discuss this part of the assignment in more detail in class.

December 11th final papers are due. The final draft will count for 10% of your grade.
Departmental Grading Scale:  
- A = 100-95  
- A- = 94-93  
- B+ = 92-91  
- B = 90-87  
- B- = 86-85  
- C+ = 84-83  
- C = 82-79  
- C- = 78-77  
- D+ = 76-75  
- D = 74-70  
- F = 69-0

A grade of “C” is what students can expect who meet the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance.

Academic Honesty (from XU’s handbook):

“The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignments, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.”

Student Responsibilities and Attendance policy:

- Do all assignments before class (not in class)
- Bring all relevant materials to class (texts, articles, etc.)
- Give this class the appropriate time it needs and attend class regularly

Success in this course is directly proportional to attendance; you are responsible for all material covered in class—not all of which derives from readings—and all changes made to the assignments regardless of your attendance. This course cannot be taken in absentia. After four excused absences your total grade for the course will be lowered by one letter grade, and your grade will continue to drop with each successive excused absence (A to A-, A- to B+, and so on). If circumstances arise that cause you to miss class more than the attendance policy allows, you need to drop this course and take it again when you are able to complete its requirements. Unexcused absences are not allowed.

In the event of an excused absence: consult the course page for the assignment, which you should complete; consult a classmate for notes.

Common Courtesy:

- Come to class on time. If you come a little late, enter and take your seat quietly. If you come too late or leave early, you will be counted absent for that day.
- Be thoughtful of other students. Do not engage in private discussions during class.
- Turn off cell phones and put away all electronic and internet gadgets before class.
- Do not read outside material or prepare work for other classes during our time together.
- Do not wear hats, hoods, or baseball caps to tests.
- Do not bring friends or relatives to class of any age without prior permission.
- While images and frank discussions of sex, violence, prejudice and bias, and other potentially offensive ideas and material are bound to occur, offensive statements towards others with regard
to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious or political belief, and so on will not be tolerated by either students or the instructor. Mutual respect is requisite. You will be dismissed from class and not allowed to return until you have had a meeting with the Dean if you are not mindful of the above rules for common courtesy.

**Important Dates**

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