

The University of Texas at Tyler
Fall Semester 2020
HIST 5310 – Seminar in History
Alexander the Great and his Biographers
Professor Edward Tabri, CAS 121
Email: etabri@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Overview and Course Objectives:

This course is a graduate research seminar designed to formulate professional research and writing skills for academic historians. The ultimate goal is for students to produce a research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference. Our topic is one of pivotal importance for world history. In our readings and discussions we will examine the career and conquests of Alexander the Great, as told by the surviving Greek and Roman accounts of his life. Further we will explore the foundations of Alexander's monarchy, as established by his father, Philip of Macedonia. Finally, we will also look at the careers of some of Alexander's successors as well as some of his opponents.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

The main requirement of the course is the production of a research paper of roughly 12-15 pages on a relevant topic of your choice. It will constitute 70% of the course grade. The remaining 30% of your grade will consist of three short (3-4 page) papers worth 10% each.

Final Withdrawal Date: Monday, November 2

Required Books:

Richard Billows, *Before and After Alexander*
Waldemar Heckel, *The Conquests of Alexander the Great*
Plutarch, *The Age of Alexander*
Quintus Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander*
Arrian, *The Anabasis and the Indica*
Diodorus of Sicily, *The Library: Books 16-20*

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments (subject to change with prior notification):

August 26	Course Introduction
Sept. 2	Discussion of Billows, p. 9-140 and Diodorus, Book 16 First Short Paper Due – Topic: Philip of Macedonia
Sept. 9	Discussion of Billows, chapter 5; Plutarch, p. 252-334 and Diodorus, Book 17
Sept. 16	Discussion of Quintus Curtius (entire book) Second Short Paper Due – The Leadership of Alexander

- Sept. 23 Discussion of Heckel (entire book)
- Sept. 30 Discussion of Arrian (entire book)
Third Short Paper Due – Alexander and Religion
- Oct. 7 Discussion of Billows, p. 186-302 and Diodorus, Book 18
- Oct. 14 Discussion of Plutarch, *Lives of Phocion, Demosthenes and Demetrius*
Presentation of Research Paper Proposals
- Oct. 21 No meeting
- Oct. 28 No meeting
- Nov. 4 No meeting
- Nov. 11 No meeting
- Nov. 18 **Presentation and Submission of First Draft of Research Paper**
- Nov. 25 No meeting
- Dec. 2 No meeting
- Dec. 9 **Final Version of Research Paper Due (send as email attachment)**

Additional Syllabus Information

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

<https://www.uttyler.edu/online/faq/>

Additional University Policies:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>