

Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes: This course is an upper-level survey of Greek and Roman history during the Classical age of the Mediterranean world (ca. 500 BC to ca. AD 500). In this course we will examine the political, social and cultural history of these civilizations, with particular attention as to why Greek and Roman political, legal and other institutions and ideologies have defined the subsequent Western tradition. We will become acquainted with many of the colorful and influential personalities from the Greek and Roman worlds and we will attempt to gain an understanding of the Greco-Roman outlook. To this end, we will also study two of the preeminent writers of the classical world, Plutarch and Tacitus.

Course Requirements: The course will consist of lectures and discussions; regular attendance and participation are essential. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam and a term paper (approx. 6-8 pages). Each of these will be worth 1/3 of your final grade. The exams will consist of choices of terms (5 out of 10 possible) and essays (1 of 2). The paper will be an analysis of either the book by Plutarch or that of Tacitus. Further instructions for the paper will be given separately.

Grading Policy: Each assignment is worth 100 points for a course total of 300. The grading scale is A=270-300, B=240-269, C=210-239, D=180-209, F=180-0. Make-ups will not be given nor will late papers be accepted, *the only exception being officially documented family or medical emergencies.*

Final Withdrawal Date:

Required Books:

Freeman, *Egypt, Greece and Rome*
Plutarch, *Greek Lives*
Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*

Topics and Assignments:

Week 1

Introduction

Week 2

The Mediterranean World
Readings: Freeman, chs. 1, 7 and 8

Week 3

Foundations of Greek Civilization
Readings: Freeman, chs. 9-11; Plutarch, pp. 1-77

Week 4

Classical Greece
Readings: Freeman, chs. 12-14; Plutarch, pp. 78-217

Week 5

The War of Athens and Sparta
Readings: Freeman, chs. 15-17; Plutarch, pp. 218-305

Week 6

The Age of Alexander
Readings: Freeman, ch. 18; Plutarch, pp. 306-381

Week 7

The Hellenistic World
Readings: Freeman, ch. 19

Week 8

Midterm Exam, Thursday, October 16

Week 9

The Rise of Rome

Readings: Freeman, chs. 20-21

Week 10

The Crisis of the Roman Republic

Readings: Freeman, chs. 22-24; Tacitus, pp. 7-89

Week 11

The Early Empire (Principate)

Readings: Freeman, chs. 25; Tacitus, pp. 90-227

Week 12

Administration of the Empire

Readings: Freeman, chs. 26-27; Tacitus, pp. 231-319

Week 13

Third Century Crisis; Spread of Christianity

Readings: Freeman, chs. 28-29; Tacitus, pp. 320-397

Week 14

No Meetings – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15

The Later Empire (Dominate)

Readings: Freeman, ch. 30

Term Paper Due Tuesday, December 2

Week 16

Transformation and Disintegration

Readings: Freeman, chs. 31-32

Week 17

Final Exam