



## Classical Civilizations

### Part I: Greek History and Civilization (Prof. Margherita Facella)

1. Introductory Lecture: the lecturers will meet the students and explain the structure and the aim of the course, they will provide the material for the readings and will answer their questions. Introduction on the methodology of ancient history (different sources), on the geography of the Greek world and on the periodization of Greek History
2. Homer and the epic tradition.
3. The invention of the *polis* and its different expressions: Athens and Sparta; alternative to the *polis*

The following texts will be read and commented during the lecture:

- Homer, *Ilias*, Book I, 1-42; 92-188; XXIV, 468-551; *Odyssey*, Book I 1-25
- Aristotle: *Politics* II.1.1261a18, III.1.1275b20; III.7

4. Forms of government of a *polis*: monarchy, oligarchy, democracy.
5. The Greeks and the tyrants; festivals at Athens and the role of tragedy
6. The role of education and the role of the woman at Athens and Sparta.



The following texts will be read and commented during the lecture:

- Plato: Republic 545c-548d; Aristotle: Politics III.1.1275
- Athenaeus XV, 695a-b; Archilocus (fr. 19. 3 West); Alcaeus (Fr. 129, 332 and 348 Lobel-Page)
- A selection of passages from Greek tragedies
- Xenophon: Oeconomicus VII

7. The Greeks and the others: the Greek colonies in the Mediterranean sea; the expansion in Asia Minor

8. Greeks and Persians: encounters and clashes. Herodotus

9. The first and the second Persian War

The following texts will be read and commented during the lecture:

- Herodotus: Prologue

10. Greeks versus Greeks: the Peloponnesian War. The work of Thucydides.

11. Overview of the conflict

12. A new era: Philip II, Alexander the Great and the coming of Macedonia.

The following texts will be read and commented during the lecture:

- Thucydides: Prologue; I.1; II. 36-40.

## **Part II: Roman culture and civilization (Prof. Chiara Tommasi)**

13. Periodization issues: key moments in Roman history, from the archaic age to Late Antiquity

14. Turning points in the development of Rome from its humble beginnings to the sixth century A.D.

15. Different government forms (Kingship; Republic; Empire), the lesson will show how it is possible to reach a definition of an age, analysing different sectors of history, using disparate sources, with the guidance of varied interpretative models.

A selection from the following texts will be read and commented during the lecture

Livy, *Ab urbe condita*, Preface

Tacitus, *Annals and Histories*, Preface

Eutropius, *Breviarium*



16. Daily life in Rome: social classes; family; love; death and burial.
17. Daily life in Rome: daily routine; life in towns and countryside; clothes; food and drink
18. Daily life in Rome: theatre; sports and other amusements; the arena; art and leisure

A selection from the following texts will be read and commented during the lecture

Juvenal, Satires  
Petronius, Satyricon

19. The Romans and the 'Others': the so-called Roman imperialism and the progressive expansion of Rome; the relationship with barbarian tribes from Northern Europe.

A selection from the following texts will be read and commented during the lecture

Livy, 25  
Sallust, The War of Jugurtha  
Tacitus, Germania

20. Roman religion: the public dimension (polytheism, mythology, sacrifice, rites and festivals).
21. Roman religion: the private religion (magic and necromancy)

A selection from the following texts will be read and commented during the lecture

Lucan, Civil War 6  
Cicero, On the Nature of the gods

22. Early Christianity and Late Antiquity
23. The Oriental cults
24. The development and establishment of Christianity as official religion of the empire.

A selection from the following texts will be read and commented during the lecture

Pliny-Trajan, Letters 10,96-7  
Ambrose-Symmachus, The controversy on the Altar of Victory  
Augustine, Confessions

### **Part III: Greek and Roman civilisation (Prof. Filippo Battistoni)**

25. Measuring the time in Antiquity: Sun & Moon - Years & Months
26. Measuring the time in Antiquity: Civic Calendars & Fasti
27. Measuring the time in Antiquity: Historiography



A selection of passages of ancient authors will be read and commented during the lecture

28.+29. Visit to the Camposanto Monumentale, where the students will be faced with some Medieval frescoes representing scenes of the life Desert Fathers, and some Roman inscriptions.

30.+31.+32. Presentation by the students of their Assignment to the rest of the class.

34.+35. Presentation by the students of their Assignment to the rest of the class.

36. Final lecture: the impact of classical civilizations on modern globalized world.

### *Attendance*

You are required to attend all the lectures. If you cannot be present to a lecture, please inform your lecturer.

### *Reading*

You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to lecture/recitation a copy of any reading that has been provided to you by the lecturer. Further information will be given in the Introductory lecture of the course.

### *Active Participation*

You are expected to arrive at your weekly recitations having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and actively contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

### *Assignment*

Each student is expected to give an oral presentation about a subject agreed with the teacher. The assignment will be object of evaluation.

### *Evaluation*

The students will be evaluated on the base of the Class Participation, Assignment and Final exam (see below for the grading).



### **Bibliography for the final exam**

Besides the notes and the texts discussed during the lectures, the students are expected to study:

- B. Campbell, *The Romans and their world*
- R. Garland, *Daily Life of the Ancient Greeks*

Supplementary and more specific readings are requested to Erasmus students who want to attend the course and take the final exam (please contact the lecturers).

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

The course is open to everybody who is interested in the ancient Greek and Roman world. The knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin is very welcome, but not required to attend the course (texts will be read in English translation). Emphasis is placed on the use of primary sources in translation.

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Class Participation	10%
Assignment	50%
Final Exam	40%