

**Advanced Greek Readings: Herodotus**  
**Fall 2008 - GRK-4300-001**

**Utah State University**

Class: MWF 11:30-12:20 in Main 323L

Professor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

Office hrs: MWF 10:30-11:20 & by appointment Susan.O.Shapiro@usu.edu

**Department of History**

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**Description and Goals:** This course will focus on **Herodotus, the first historian in the western tradition**. Herodotus wrote a **history of the Persian Wars**, generally referred to as *The Histories* (Herodotus himself did not give it a title). We will read **selections from Herodotus' Histories in Greek**, and we will read **the entire Histories in English** as well.

This class will have **three distinct, yet closely related, goals**. The first and **most important goal is to improve your skills in reading Greek**. Since Herodotus is a relatively easy author to translate, we will read with increasing speed while maintaining a complete and accurate understanding of the text. We will **start by translating about five pages per week** and increase our speed (while maintaining accuracy) until, **by the end of the semester, we will be reading about 8-10 pages per week**. We will concentrate our translation on **Books 1, 6, 7 & 8**, which are among the most exciting books, but we will **read the entire work in English** to give us a sense of context and an understanding of the *Histories* as a whole.

The second goal of the course is to explore **Herodotus' method of writing history**. Since he had no models of historical writing to guide him in creating his new genre, Herodotus used **literary models** to help shape his *Histories*. Herodotus' historical method is influenced by several literary genres (including epic, drama, and story-telling), as well as by his own, personal type of wisdom. We will explore Herodotus' historical method through **our own reading of the text**, and by **reading and discussing several scholarly articles** that focus on this aspect of Herodotus' work.

Our third, and final, goal for the course is to study some of the **key historical events** that are the main subject of Herodotus' work. **From 490 to 479 BC, the mighty Persian Empire** (certainly the greatest empire the world had ever known) **made several attempts to annex the relatively poor and disunited city-states of Greece**. In his *Histories*, Herodotus describes these events and he also attempts to answer the question of why, with all their wealth and power, the Persians were ultimately unable to conquer the Greeks.

**Required Texts:**

Amy Barbour. *Selections from Herodotus* (U of Oklahoma Press)

Herodotus. *The Histories*. David Grene, trans. (U of Chicago Press)

**Requirements:** Grades for the course will determined as follows:

3 exams	15% each	45%
4 short papers	10% each	40%
3 oral reports	5% each	<u>15%</u>
Total		100%

The grading scale will be: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60). F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

**Exams:** There will be **three hour exams**, approximately one every 5 weeks. Each exam will concentrate on material covered since the last exam. **The second and third exams will also have an unseen passage as well.** The last exam will not be comprehensive, but will have the same weight and format as the other exams.

**Makeups:** Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).

**Short Papers:** During the semester we will read and discuss eight scholarly articles. The first will discuss what (little) is known of Herodotus' life and career; the other **seven will focus on his historiography (historical method).** Each student will write **four short (3 -5 page) papers on any four of the last seven articles.** You may choose any of the last seven articles you like. Since you are required to read all of the articles in any case, I would recommend that you write on articles that you have a strong reaction to, whether positive or negative.

Your short papers should include (at least): a summary of the **author's argument**, a summary of the **author's main supporting evidence**, a statement of the **significance of the author's conclusions**, and **your evaluation of the validity** of those conclusions. Of course, you may address these topics in any order you choose, and you may wish to include other topics as well.

**All short papers are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due.** Late essays (beginning after class on the due-day) will be subject to a penalty of 5 points per day. The reason for this rule is that there will be a class discussion of each article on the date that the paper is due.

**Oral Reports:** Each student will present **3 short (5-10 min) oral reports, each summarizing one book of Herodotus' *Histories*.** The purpose of the reports is to help the class understand the most important events of each book. **You will probably want to hand out to the class a simple outline or summary of the book when you give your report.** (Since there are nine books of the *Histories*, your professor will also be giving some of the reports). **We will the entire *Histories* in English.** I realize that this is a lot of reading, but since we can read so little of the text in Greek, it is important that we read the rest of the work in order to understand the context of what we have translated. **All students are expected to have finished reading the relevant book of Herodotus' *Histories* in English by the day of the student report for that book.**

**Attendance, Class Discussion and Homework:** I expect you to **come to class every day with your reading assignment prepared.** The amount of homework for each class will vary, but you should expect to spend at least **1 to 2 hours** in preparation for each class. **I reserve the right to lower your final grade for excessive absences or lack of preparation.**

**Academic Honesty:** **Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class.** If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or what constitutes unauthorized assistance, please do not hesitate to ask me.

**Nota Bene:** This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor, provided that written or verbal notice is given in class.

### Tentative Assignment Schedule

Note: Readings and Translation Assignments are Due on the Date Specified

#### Week 1

- M 8/25 – Introduction; Herodotus’ dialect; Barbour’s “Introduction”  
 W 8/27- **Book 1** pp. 49-51; **Article 1:** J. A. S. Evans, *The Career of Herodotus*  
 F 8/29 - pp. 51-53

#### Week 2

- M 9/1 - Labor Day – no class**  
 W 9/3 - pp. 53-55  
 F 9/5 - pp. 55-57; **Article 2:** S. Flory, *Arion's Leap*

#### Week 3

- M 9/8 – pp. 57-60  
 W 9/11 - pp. 50-61 (line 18); **Report on Herodotus Book 1**  
 F 9/12 - pp. 61-63; **Report on Herodotus Book 2**

#### Week 4

- M 9/15 – pp. 63-65  
 W 9/17 – pp. 65-67; **Report on Herodotus Book 3**  
 F 9/19 - pp. 67-68 ; **Article 3:** C. Chiasson, *The Herodotean Solon*

#### Week 5

- M 9/22 – pp. 68-71 (line 27)  
 W 9/24 – Catch up  
 F 9/26 - **Exam 1** (pp. 49-71 line 27)

#### Week 6

- M 9/29 – pp. 71-75  
 W 10/1 - p. 75; **Report on Herodotus Book 4**  
 F 10/3 - pp. 75-77

#### Week 7

- M 10/6 – pp. 77-79 (line 12)  
 W 10/8 - **Book 6** 152-153 (l. 5); **Article 4:** R. Lattimore, *The Wise Adviser in Herodotus*  
 F 10/10 - pp. 153-156 (line 18)

**Week 8**

M 10/13 – pp. 156-159; **Report on Herodotus Book 5**  
 T 10/15 - Book 7 pp. 160-162  
**R 10/16 - NO CLASS – too confusing**  
**F 10/17 – Fall Break – no class**

**Week 9**

M 10/20 – pp. 162-164  
 W 10/22 - pp. 164-165; **Report on Herodotus Book 6**  
 F 10/24 - pp. 166-169 (line 13)

**Week 10**

M 10/27 – Catch up and **Article 5**: R. Sinos, *Divine Selection*  
 W 10/29 - Catch-up and Review; **Article 6**: S. Shapiro, *Herodotus and Solon*  
 F 10/31 - **Exam 2** (pp. 71-79 & 152-169)

**Week 11**

M 11/3 – **Book 7** pp. 181-184  
 W 11/5 - pp. 184-186  
 F 11/7 - pp. 186-188 **Report on Herodotus Book 7**

**Week 12**

M 11/10 – pp. 188-189; **Report on Herodotus Book 8**  
 W 11/12 - **Book 8** pp. 190-192  
 F 11/14 - **Article 7**: D. Lateiner, *Analogy*

**Week 13**

M 11/17 - pp. 192-195  
 W 11/19 - pp. 196-197; **Article 8**: S. Shapiro, *Proverbial Wisdom in Herodotus*  
 F 11/21 – pp. 198-199

**Week 14**

M 11/24 - pp. 199-201 (line 28); **Report on Herodotus Book 9**  
**WF 11/26 & 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

**Week 15**

M 2/1 – pp. 201-203  
 W 12/3 - pp. 203-204  
 F 12/5 – Catch up and Review

**Wed. December 10 - @ 9:30 – 11:20 AM - Exam 3 (pp. 186-204)**