

# CLST 19: Theories and Methods in Ancient History

Spring, 2002

Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 2pm-4pm (X-Hour Wednesday 4:15pm-5:20pm)

Professor Christesen

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## I-Course Description

This course introduces the student to the various types of documentary evidence available to the ancient historian and to the various perspectives for framing and answering historical questions. We will consider the interpretive methodologies for a number of different kinds of evidence (written sources, art, architecture, epigraphy, numismatics, archaeology) both in abstract terms and in terms of the use of this evidence to address specific historical questions. The evidence presented and questions considered throughout the semester will focus on the ideology, structure, and daily operation of the Athenian democracy from its inception in 510 to its suppression in 322 BCE. This program of study will familiarize the student with a range of methodologies that are applicable to historical inquiry of all kinds. It will also serve to make students aware of the specific resources available for the study of the ancient world and aid them in learning how to make best use of those resources. In addition to instructing students in the basics of historical interpretation, this course is designed to help students learn how to research and write a substantial (15-25 page) paper and to make effective oral presentations.

## II-Required Texts (available at the Dartmouth Bookstore)

- 1-Richard Marius. *A Short Guide to Writing History*. (Longman)
- 2-John Thorley. *Athenian Democracy*. (Routledge)
- 3-Thucydides. *The Peloponnesian War*. (Penguin)

## III-Class Schedule

Over the course of the semester we will examine the different bodies of evidence through which we might learn something about the Athenian democracy of the late Archaic and Classical Periods. As I would like to have at my disposal the flexibility to modify details of focus and reading as the class develops, I will not provide a full schedule of assignments in advance. You will receive a specific list of assigned reading about one week in advance.

## IV-Grading

Your grade will be based on three separate components:

### A-Quizzes

Short (c. 10 minute) quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class. As these quizzes will play a central role in deciding your final grade for this class, please keep the following points in mind:

- 1-Students who arrive late or who are absent will not be given the opportunity to make up these quizzes.
- 2-Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
- 3-Students who attend all scheduled classes will receive a bonus in the form of a fourth dropped quiz grade.
- 4-Students who miss more than four classes will be penalized in a fashion which will directly effect their total quiz grade. (See under absences below.)

### B-Presentations

Each student will make two presentations before the end of the semester. The first will be a short talk on an assigned topic that will provide background on a specific issue being addressed by the class as a whole. The second will be a longer address which will familiarize the class with the results of the presenter's ongoing research. (See section C below.)

### C-Paper

Each student will write a 15-25 page research paper which ideally will involve the use of at least two of the bodies of evidence listed in the course description. The topic of your paper must be selected by Tuesday April 16. Your progress will be monitored through regular meetings. The first version of this paper will be due on Friday May 10. This version will be returned to you, along with suggestions for revision, in a meeting held during the following week. You will then be required to revise and resubmit this paper by Wednesday May 29. In the interests of rewarding improvement, the grade for the revised version will be counted twice for the purposes of determining the final grade. Hence if the first version rated a C and the second version a B, your final grade will be a B-. More specific guidelines on writing this paper will be provided in a separate handout.

### D-Citizenship

This covers such things as preparation and participation. Much of this class will be conducted in a discussion format the success of which depends upon the willingness and ability of individuals to contribute regularly. You will find it difficult to meaningfully participate in class discussion without the requisite preparation. Hence your efforts on both fronts will be factored into your grade.

## V-Absence Policy

Due to the relative brevity of Dartmouth's semesters, it is critical that students attend the vast majority if not all of the scheduled class meetings. Students who miss more than four scheduled class meetings will be penalized as follows. For the fifth absence, one zero will be averaged into your quiz grade. For the sixth absence, two zeroes will be averaged into your quiz grade. The same progression will be followed until the eighth absence. Students missing more than eight classes must withdraw from the course. Please note that you will find it difficult to achieve an acceptable grade for this course should you miss more than four classes.