

Greek 26: Historians: Herodotos

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I-Course Description

Written in the second half of the fifth century BCE, Herodotos' *Histories* not only stands at the beginning of the Western historiographic tradition, but also remains one of the outstanding examples of historical narration. We will read selected portions of *The Histories* in ancient Greek and the entirety of the work in English translation. As we move through the text we will focus both on improving your ability to read and understand ancient Greek and on exploring some of the larger concerns addressed in and raised by Herodotos' work.

II-Required and Suggested Texts

A-Required texts (available at Dartmouth Bookstore):

1-*Selections from Herodotos*. Selected and edited, with an introduction, notes, and vocabulary. Amy L. Barbour. University of Oklahoma Press, 1929.

2-Herodotos. *The History*. Translated by David Grene. University of Chicago Press, 1987. (Please note that it is important that you acquire this specific translation of Herodotos' work.)

B-Texts you should have:

1-A good ancient Greek-English dictionary

2-A guide to ancient Greek grammar.

3-A translation of Thucydides' *Peloponnesian War*

III-Class Schedule

We will attempt to read most of Book I of *The History* in ancient Greek as well as short selections from various other places in the work. Insofar as it is difficult to predict the precise length of time it will take to cover any individual passage, it is impossible to give detailed assignments in advance. The following is a list of passages which we should cover before semester's end:

<u>Book/Section Number(s)</u>	<u>Corresponding Pages in Barbour</u>
Book I, sections 1-91	pp. 49-79
Book III, section 38	not in Barbour (xerox of OCT will be handed out)
Book VII, sections 8-19	pp. 162-169
Book VII, sections 101-104	not in Barbour (xerox of OCT will be handed out)
Book VII, sections 133-136	not in Barbour (xerox of OCT will be handed out)

We will read all of *The History* in the English translation of David Grene.

IV-Grading

Your grade will be based on four separate components:

A-Quizzes and exams

Short (c. 10 minute) quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class. Students who arrive late or who are absent will not be given the opportunity to make up these quizzes. Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Students who come to the end of the semester with an A average on quizzes and on the midterm exam will be granted an exemption from the final exam and will automatically receive an A for this section of their grade.

B-Passage Analyses

You will be required to produce written analyses of two different passages. Each analysis will be approximately 2-3 pages long and will include a translation and discussion of content, structure, and style.

C-Paper and revision

You will be required to write and revise a 5-8 page paper. The first version of this paper will be due on Friday November 5.

D-Citizenship

This covers such things as attendance, preparation, and participation.

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. Students who attend *all* scheduled classes receive a bonus in the form of a fourth dropped quiz.