

## Greek and Roman Historians

CLS 295/HIS 295-04

MWF 1:00-1:50 P.M.

Room: JRC 226

Instructor: Regina Loehr (she/her)

Office: HSSC A3228

Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00, T 11:00-12:00, W 9:00-9:50 and by appointment

Ancient historians made explicit – and complex – claims about their relation to the truth and past events. How do we as readers navigate their presentations of “the truth” and come to an understanding of the past? In this course students explore ancient historical texts as deliberate works of literature rather than as sources to mine for historical data. Students evaluate the historians’ claims of veracity, examining how the historians frame their narratives and how their choices of material and presentation affect their audiences. This is an important task, not only because historiography is the largest, (one of) the most persistent, and static genres throughout the ancient world, but also because analysis of historical narratives is a skill needed in the contemporary world in which events, narratives, and conceptions of the past and of reality are shifting and debated.

- To evaluate ancient historians’ claims of veracity,
- To be able to identify the parameters, expectations, and characteristics of the genre of ancient historiography from Herodotus to Tacitus,
- To apply both ancient historiographical theory and modern approaches to analysis of ancient histories,
- To practice skills of literary analysis particular to the application of historical texts.

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Optional:

Sallust. *Catiline's Conspiracy, Jugurthine War, Histories*. Trans. W. Batstone. ISBN: 9780192823458.

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Participation	10%
Assignments	15%
Take-home Assessments	30%
Research Paper (40%) and Presentation (5%)	45%

Class participation is the gateway to fuller understanding and analysis of the texts. Your active participation in class discussions helps all of us explore, critique, and enjoy the course material and hones your ability to express your thoughts eloquently. By reading the texts and sharing your responses to and questions of these texts, you develop the critical skills applicable to any analysis of written (and other) material. I will evaluate you on how well-prepared you are for each class period and on how you engage in the discussions.

Ancient texts form the backbone for this course.

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This course is open for everyone to learn. Please respect your colleagues and me so that we can create an inclusive, supportive, and respectful learning community.

The college has a clear policy on academic honesty:

[http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty in Academic Work](http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty%20in%20Academic%20Work)

If you are struggling in the course, please come see me. Let us meet and form a plan which can work for you and your other commitments.

If you need assistance with any kind of academic skillset, from notetaking to time management and beyond, please consult with the Academic Advising office, on the upper level of Steiner Hall, [advising@grinnell.edu](mailto:advising@grinnell.edu)

If you require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Services, which are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Rosenfield Center. You can also contact Jae Hirschman directly, by phone at 641-269-3710. If you find yourself struggling with the material or with anything else, please do come and talk to me.

For any health needs, physical, mental, or both, please consult with Student Health and Wellness (SHAW) (641-269-

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01/23-01/27

Mon. Jan. 23: Introductions

Wed. Jan. 25: Herodotus, 1.1-33, pp. 3-16

Fri. Jan. 27: Herodotus, 1. 34-92, pp. 16-44

01/30-02/03

Mon. Jan. 30: Herodotus, 3.1-66, pp. 170-200

Wed. Feb. 1: Herodotus, 3.67-160, pp. 200-239

Fri. Feb. 3: Herodotus, 7.172-239, pp. 476-500

02/06-02/10

Mon. Feb. 6: Herodotus, 8.40-107, pp. 513-537

Wed. Feb. 8: Thucydides, 1.20-88, pp. 14-49

Fri. Feb. 10: Thucydides, 2.1-46, pp. 89-118

02/13-02/17

Mon. Feb. 13: Thucydides 2.47-103, pp. 118-156

Wed. Feb. 15: Thucydides, 3.20-85, pp. 168-201

Fri. Feb. 17: Thucydides, 6.24-32, pp. 375-379; Thuc. 7.1-50, pp. 427-458

02/20-02/24

Mon. Feb. 20: Thucydides, 7.51-87, pp. 458-478

Wed. Feb. 22: Ctesias, *Persika* 12.25-23, pp. 182-215

Fri. Feb. 24: Ctesias, *Indika*, pp. 47-82

02/27-03/03 *Research Paper Progress: Author or Topic Due.*  
*Take-Home Assessment I*

Mon. Feb. 27: Polybius, PDF

Wed. Mar. 1: Polybius, PDF

Fri. Mar. 3: Fragmentary Greek Historians, PDF

03/06-03/10 *Take-Home Assessment I Due*

Mon. Mar. 6: Fragmentary Roman Historians, PDF

Wed. Mar. 8: Sallust, *The War Against Catiline* 1-22, pp. 3-57

Fri. Mar. 10: Sallust, *The War Against Catiline* 23-61, pp. 59-179

03/13-03/17 *Research Paper Progress: Author AND Topic Due.*

Mon. Mar. 13: Caesar, *Gallic Wars* Books 1 and 2, pp. 26-43  
Wed. Mar. 15: *Schedule research paper meetings*  
Fri. Mar. 17: Caesar, *Gallic Wars* Books 3-6, pp. 44-74

04/03-04/07 *Research Paper Progress: Preliminary bibliography due.*  
Mon. Apr. 3: Caesar, *Gallic Wars* 7, pp. 75-92

Wed. Apr. 5: Livy, 21.1-33, pp. 3-34  
Fri. Apr. 7: Livy, 21.34-63, pp. 34-65

04/10-04/14 *Research Paper Progress: Thesis statement due.*  
Mon. Apr. 10: Livy, 22.1-30, pp. 66-100  
Wed. Apr. 12: Livy, 22.31-61, pp. 100-134

Fri. Apr. 14: Josephus, *The Jewish War* 1.1-30, pp. 3-7; *The Jewish War* 3.141-442, pp. 170-193

04/17-04/21 *Research Paper Progress: Outline due.*  
Mon. Apr. 17: Josephus, *The Jewish War* 5.247-572, pp. 275-303  
Wed. Apr. 19: Josephus, *The Jewish War* Book 6, pp. 305-340  
Fri. Apr. 21: Josephus, *The Jewish War* Book 7, pp. 341-374

04/24-04/28 *Research Presentations begin*

Mon. Apr. 24: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-53, pp. 3-33  
Wed. Apr. 26: Working Differently Day  
Fri. Apr. 28: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.54-81 and 2.1-26, pp. 33-62

05/01-05/05 *Research Presentations*  
Mon. May 1: Tacitus, *Annals* 2.27-88, pp. 62-94  
Wed. May 3: Tacitus, *Annals* 3.1-19, pp. 95-105; *Annals* 4.28-35, pp. 151-156  
Fri. May 5: Tacitus, *Annals* 6.20-51, pp. 195-214; *Histories* PDF

05/08-05/12 *Historia Augusta*

*Research Presentations*  
*Take-Home Assessment II*

Mon. May 8: *Historia Augusta*, PDF  
Wed. May 10: *Historia Augusta*, PDF  
Fri. May 12: Conclusions

*Research Paper Due*  
*Take-Home Assessment II Due*