

## Greek 202: Herodotus

Spring, 2009

Kirk Ormand

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Office hours: M 10-11; W 2-4; Th 1-2

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Purpose: This course is designed to do two things. First, you will improve your facility with ancient Greek, especially Greek prose, by reading large chunks of Herodotus. Second, you will become expert on the *Histories* of Herodotus by reading the whole in English, as well as reading some contemporary scholarship on it.

Herodotus offers many charms to the reader. He is rightly credited with having invented the genre of history in the West, and from his work we can infer a theory of historical method that has informed much subsequent historical writing. He is also, however, one of the finest storytellers in antiquity, and even early readers (e.g. Thucydides) found that his work lacked a necessary objectivity and verifiability. In recent years, Herodotus' stock has been rising, as modern readers have appreciated his work as an early attempt at ethnography. We will look at Herodotus in all of these lights, as well as considering his importance as a creator of a 5<sup>th</sup>-century Athenian sense of national identity against an exotic, often effeminate East.

Assignments/Grading: This course will have three translation exams (20% each), and a final paper (25%). In addition, each member of the class will lead off our discussion on individual books of Herodotus, and on articles or book chapters from those listed on the syllabus. Since this class is quite small, these "discussion leader" assignments will happen in regular rotation. Your performance as discussion leader as well as your attendance/preparation for class will determine the remaining 15% of your grade.

Readings and Class time: Class will be a mixture of translation and discussion on the reading (in Greek or English) for the day. I expect that you will come to class having read *and thought about* that day's assignment. If you fail to do this, discussions will be lackluster, secondary readings will make little sense, and you will find yourself generally unhappy. A number of readings are on the **Blackboard** site for the class. These readings are integral to the course and *not* optional (Please note that not every reading on Blackboard is on the syllabus; some are there as additional sources.) The reading assignments are sometimes long, so plan ahead and give yourself time to enjoy reading them. If you do not enjoy Herodotus by the end of the semester, something has gone wrong; please come talk to me if things are not working.

Attendance: For the duration of this semester and for the purposes of this class, we are a small community of scholars. Please plan to attend every class session. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed. A bit of friendly advice: long experience has shown that students who come to class regularly and well-prepared tend to do better on exams and papers. Ignore this fact at your peril. I also reserve the right to grade you down for poor attendance and/or lack of preparation.

Attendance, part II: I have become increasingly disenchanted with the notion that Spring Break should last longer than one week. You have 8 days off (Saturday-Sunday). Your travel plans are not a sufficient excuse for missing class the day before or after break.

Academic Honesty: In the unlikely event that I find that a student is has engaged in academic dishonesty (cheating, helping other students to cheat, plagiarism) he/she will fail the course. I will also report the student to the Honor Board, as required by the Honor Code. An excellent discussion of plagiarism exists in the honor code:

[http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/bin/common/course.pl?course\\_id=16667\\_1](http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=16667_1) .

Texts:

*Herodotus Book I*, ed. George A. Sheets

*Herodotus: The Histories*, trans. Robin Waterfield

You will also need a Greek dictionary. I have ordered the Middle Liddell, which will serve you well for the rest of your Greek career. Also acceptable is the Oxford “pocket” Greek dictionary.

## Schedule of Readings

Date	Greek	English
Feb. 2	Introduction: Herodotus and the Persian invasions; Ionic Greek; other smart stuff	
<i>Part 1: Prologue, origins of the conflict, story of Candaules' wife</i>		
4	Section 1.1-1.4	
6	2.1-4.1	Excerpt from <i>The Penguin History of Greece</i> (On Blackboard)
9	4.2-5.4	
11	6.1-8.4	
13	Book 1	
16	9.1-11.3	
18	11.4-14.2	
20	14.3-15.1	Book 2
23	<b>Early Hour Test #1</b>	
<i>Part 2: Solon and Croesus, the development of Athenian identity</i>		
25	23.1-24.8	
27	25.1-28.1	Book 3
March 2	29.1-30.5	
4	31.1-32.2	
6	32.3-33.1	Book 4
9	34.1-34.3	
11	35.1-37.2	
13	37.3-42.2	Book 5
16	43.1-45.5	
18	Catch up	
20	Article?	
Mar. 21-28	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 30	Breathe.	Book 6
April 1	46.1-47.3	
3	48.1-49.1	
6	Catch up	
8	<b>Reasonable Hour Test #2</b>	
10	Book 7	
April 13-17	<b>Martin Lectures Week with Christina Kraus (Yale)</b>	
<i>Third section: Croesus, besieged at Sardis, falls to Cyrus the Persian</i>		
13	84.1-85.1	
15	85.2-86.3	
17	<b>No Class; attend at least 2 Martin Lectures this week</b>	
20	86.4-87.1	
22	87.2-88.3	
24	Book 8	

27	89.1-90.3	
29	90.4-91.4	
May 1	91.5-92.4	
4	Catch up	Article?
6	<b>Hour Test #3</b>	
8	The Last Class	Book 9
<b>Thursday, May 14</b>	Final Paper/project due At 11:00	<b>No Extensions!</b>