

GRW 4380 – GREEK HISTORIANS

aka Plutarch, Section 232C

Fall 2017, Wedn. period 8-10 or 3:00-6:00pm, DAU 342

Instructor: Gonda Van Steen

Office location: Dauer 139

Off. hours: Wedn. 1:00-2:50p.m. and by appointment

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For updates on the activities of the Center for Greek Studies, see <http://cgs.classics.ufl.edu/>

Description / Objectives:

This course is designed to enable the student to read Classical Greek with greater facility and enjoyment. Close readings from original Greek prose with some traces of Koine: Plutarch's *Life of Themistocles*. Also some extracts from Herodotus on the Persian Wars and from Aeschylus' *Persians*. Some consideration of the question of the historical and symbolic role of Salamis, the myth-making surrounding Salamis, Themistocles, and Xerxes, the diverse historiographical sources on Themistocles and on other heroes of Plutarch's moral "biographies," historiographical and rhetorical technique and style, the production of enduring heroic models and morality, literary influence and theatrical inspiration. Oral presentations on related topics. Occasional revisions of grammatical items.

For Consideration: The Reception of Plutarch's *Lives*—and Judgments:

Death by classics? For twenty-year-old Eliza Lucas (c. 1722-1793), who presided over a prosperous indigo plantation in colonial South Carolina, the idea seemed ludicrous. An avid reader of Plutarch's *Lives*, she scoffed at the warnings of an older woman from the neighborhood, who advised her that rising at 5 a.m. to read Plutarch would send her to an early grave—or worse, wrinkle her skin and "spoil" her marriage.

(Quoted from Caroline Winterer, *The Mirror of Antiquity*, 12)

Plutarch is pervasively rhetorical, and to be rhetorical is to be theatrical.

(Robert Lamberton, *Plutarch*, 192).

Requirements and Grading System: total of 400 points:

There will be two review tests (100 points each) for all students. Class attendance, participation, and preparation count for 1/4 of the final grade (100 points). Students will also deliver a comprehensive (15-minute) oral presentation on a topic selected by the student in consultation with the instructor (50 points). They will turn their presentation into an 8-page paper by the end of the semester (50 points, deadline 12/6/2017 at 10am). A draft of this paper will be due earlier (deadline: 11/15/2017). Ideally, student will choose another life by Plutarch and will analyze it for their classmates; they will also focus on a particular passage from that life for a close reading of about 40 lines of Plutarch's original text.

First review test: Wedn., 9/20/2017 in class

Second review test: Wedn., 11/1/2017 in class

Grading scale (in percentages):

A = 4.0
A- = 3.67
B+ = 3.33
B = 3.0
B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33
C = 2.0
C- = 1.67
D+ = 1.33
D = 1.0
D- = 0.67
E = 0.0

On the current UF grading policies, see further the undergraduate catalog web page:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> .

Online Course Evaluation Process:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Attendance, Policies, and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Attendance at all lectures is expected. More than one unexcused absence will result in a lower grade. Attendance at departmental and other pre-announced workshops and lecture is also required (up to 80% compliance).

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> .

You are required to do your own work at all times and to abide by the university's Honor Pledge: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> .

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Required Texts:

- Liddell & Scott, *An Intermediate Greek - English Lexicon* (Oxford Univ. Press, latest edition) or any other recommended lexicon
- *Plutarch's Themistocles*. Ed. David J. Ladouceur (Bryn Mawr Greek Commentaries, 1989).

For Further Reading and Writing:

- *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt* (ANRW) II.33.6 (1992) is devoted to Plutarch, and the majority of the contributions to this volume are in English.
- De Blois, Lukas, Jeroen Bons, et al. *The Statesman in Plutarch's Works*. 2 vols. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2004-2005.
- Duff, Tim. *Plutarch's "Lives": Exploring Virtue and Vice*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University

- Press, 1999. [excellent starting point with rich bibliography on the *Lives*]
- Frost, Frank J. *Plutarch's Themistocles: A Historical Commentary*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1980.
 - Hale, John R. *Lords of the Sea: The Epic Story of the Athenian Navy and the Birth of Democracy*. NY: Viking Press, 2009.
 - Harrison, George W. M. "Plutarch the Dramaturg: Statecraft as Stagecraft in the *Lives*." In *The Statesman in Plutarch's Works*, edited by Lukas De Blois, Jeroen Bons, et al., vol. 2:53-59. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2005.
 - Lamberton, Robert. *Plutarch*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2001.
 - Mossman, Judith, ed. *Plutarch and His Intellectual World: Essays on Plutarch*. London: Duckworth / The Classical Press of Wales, 1997.
 - Nikolaidis, Anastasios G., ed. *The Unity of Plutarch's Work: 'Moralia' Themes in the 'Lives', Features of the 'Lives' in the 'Moralia'*. Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 2008.
 - Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles*. Ed. J. L. Marr. Warminster, UK: Aris and Phillips, 1998.
 - Podlecki, Anthony J. *The Life of Themistocles: A Critical Survey of the Literary and Archaeological Evidence*. Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1975.
 - Scardigli, Barbara, ed. *Essays on Plutarch's "Lives."* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. Pay special attention to the chapter by J. M. Mossman on Plutarch's *Life of Alexander*.
 - Stadter, Philip A., ed. *Plutarch and the Historical Tradition*. London and New York: Routledge, 1992.
 - Strauss, Barry. *The Battle of Salamis: The Naval Encounter That Saved Greece—and Western Civilization*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2004.
 - , "The Resilient West: Salamis without Themistocles, Classical Greece without Salamis, and the West without Classical Greece." In *Unmaking the West: "What-if?" Scenarios That Rewrite World History*, edited by P. E. Tetlock, R. N. Lebow, and G. Parker, 90-118. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2006.
 - Winterer, Caroline. *The Mirror of Antiquity: American Women and the Classical Tradition, 1750-1900*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2007. [for an example of Reception Studies]. To be consulted along with the book review in BMCR.

Schedule of Classes (all Wednesdays):

August 23: Course mechanics, syllabus, introductions. The Persian Wars and Themistocles.

August 30: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles*.

September 6: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.

September 13: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.

September 20: First review test in class.

September 27: Review of first review test.
Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.

Oct. 4: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.

Oct. 11: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.

Oct. 18: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.
Student presentation: _____, *Life of* _____

Oct. 25: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.
Student presentation: _____, *Life of* _____

Nov. 1: Second review test in class.
Discussion of guidelines for research and writing term paper.

Nov. 8: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.
Student presentation: _____, *Life of* _____
Review of tests.

Abstract (400 words) of paper due.

Nov. 15: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.
Student presentation: _____, *Life of* _____
Draft of paper due. Attach checklist.

Nov. 29: Readings from Plutarch, *Life of Themistocles* cont'd.
Student presentation: _____, *Life of* _____
Discussion of papers.

Dec. 6: **Final paper due** at 10am. Attach first draft and revised checklist.
Class discussion of final papers.