

UNIVERSITY
A601: Greek and Roman Warfare
Advance Sheet

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Abel

Course Meetings:

Location:

Contact:

Course Objective

This course will examine the major periods of Greek (Mycenaean, Dark Ages, Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic) and Roman (Republic, Crisis of the First Century, Principate, High Empire, and Late Empire) military history to determine how each society produced the military institutions of the period, how those institutions manned, armed, armored, supplied, and maintained themselves in battle, what effects those institutions produced, and how those in turn changed their various societies. It will include battle analysis of important/major combats, for which the students will be responsible to present to the class. Successful students will analyze the social and political structures of each period and synthesize from them the ingredients each contributed to their militaries. This will inform similar such linkages in contemporary states, societies, and militaries.

Scope of the Course

This course will use a blend of student readings from primary and secondary sources, course discussions, and written assignments to analyze the institutions of Greek and Roman warfare and synthesize their roles in their societies and their ongoing importance.

Course Requirements

- **Reading Requirements**
 - Readings from *The Oxford Handbook of Warfare in the Classical World*, ISBN 9780195304657 (Available through CARL in A601 Course Reserve)
 - Primary-source readings, linked in course reading schedule
 - General information, from Wikipedia or similar sources. Students are expected to know, before the relevant class discussion begins, who the author of the primary source they read is, what period he is from, and what his biases might be
- **Assessments**
 - **3 1-page executive summaries – 70% total; 23.3% each.** Students will write a one-page single-spaced summary of three primary-source reading assignments (an author may not be repeated, even if they occur more than once). These assignments are due **before the class in which the source is discussed**. They are to be uploaded to the appropriate assignment on Blackboard. A document detailing formatting and content of executive summaries is on Blackboard.
 - **Daily participation in class discussions – 30% total.**

Conduct of the Course

- Day 1: War and Society

- Liz Horodowich, “War and Society: The New Cultural History?”
<https://www-jstor-org.lumen.cgscarl.com/stable/40541151> (Requires login through CARL)
- Primary-Source Reading: Vegetius, *Military Institutions of the Romans*, Books 1 and 2
<http://www.digitalattic.org/home/war/vegetius/>
- Discussion Questions
 - What are the linkages between war and society?
 - Why do Greek and Roman warfare matter to people 2,000 years later?
 - What is Vegetius’ thesis?
- Day 2: Introduction to Greece
 - Rawlings, “War and Warfare in Ancient Greece” 3-28
 - Jarva, “Arming Greeks for Battle” 395-418
 - Primary-Source Reading: Herodotus, *Histories* Book VI 95-125
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Hdt.+6&fromdoc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0126>
 - Discussion Questions
 - How did Greek warfare evolve in its early years?
 - What armor and weapons did Greek soldiers wear/use?
- Day 3: Classical Greece
 - Lee, “The Classical Greek Experience” 143-161
 - Primary-Source Reading: Xenophon, *Anabasis* Book I
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.01.0202>
 - Discussion Questions
 - How did Greek warfare change during the Classical period?
 - What lessons can Xenophon teach a modern military practitioner?
- Day 4: Greek Navies
 - De Souza, “War at Sea” 369-382
 - Primary-Source Reading: Old Oligarch/Pseudo-Xenophon, “Constitution of the Athenians” (all)
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Ps.+Xen.+Const.+Ath.+&fromdoc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0158>
 - Discussion Questions
 - What were the characteristics of Greek naval warfare?
 - How did Greek naval warfare/navies relate to land warfare?
 - What does the Classical Greek experience teach the modern reader about jointness?
 - What does the Old Oligarch argue for or against?
- Day 5: Macedonian Greece
 - Serrati, “The Hellenistic World at War” 179-198
 - Primary-Source Reading: Arrian, *Anabasis of Alexander* Book 1 Chapters I-VI, XIII-XVI; Book 2 Chapters I-XII, XVII-XXIV; Book 3 Chapters VII-XVI
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/46976/46976-h/46976-h.htm>
 - Discussion Questions
 - How is the Hellenistic world different from the Greek world?

- How is Hellenistic warfare different from Greek warfare?
 - How did Alexander III fight his battles and win his wars?
- Day 6: Introduction to Rome
 - Howarth, “War and Warfare in Ancient Rome” 29-45
 - Campbell, “Arming Romans for Battle” 419-437
 - (No primary-source reading; begin reading Polybius for next lesson)
 - Discussion Questions
 - What are the characteristics of Roman warfare?
 - What armor and weapons did Roman soldiers wear/use?
- Day 7: The Roman Republic I
 - Sage, “The Rise of Rome” 216-235
 - Primary-Source Reading: Polybius, *Histories* Book VI
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0234%3Abook%3D6>
 - Discussion Questions
 - How did Roman warfare evolve in its early years?
 - According to Polybius, why do Romans and not Greeks dominate the Mediterranean?
- Day 8: The Roman Republic II/Roman Navies
 - Sabin, “The Face of Roman Battle”
<http://lumen.cgscarl.com/login?url=https://www.jstor.org/stable/300198>
 - De Souza, “War at Sea” 382-394
 - Primary-Source Reading: Caesar, *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*, Book VII
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0001%3Abook%3D7>
 - Discussion Questions
 - What was life like for Roman soldiers?
 - How were Roman navies different from Greek navies?
 - What characteristics of effective leadership did Caesar display?
- Day 9: The Roman High Empire I
 - Culham, “Imperial Rome at War” 236-260
 - Primary-Source Reading: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.55-71, 2.1-26, 14.29-39
<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/home.html>
 - Primary-Source Reading: Tacitus, *Histories* 2.52-101
<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/home.html>
 - Discussion Questions
 - How did Roman Imperial warfare differ from Roman Republican warfare?
 - What strengths and weaknesses of the Roman system does Tacitus reveal?
- Day 10: The Roman High Empire II
 - Adams, “War and Society in the Roman Empire” 261-278
 - Primary-Source Reading: Cassius Dio, *Roman History* 72, 75
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/home.html
 - Discussion Questions
 - What connections were there between war and society in Imperial Rome?

- What strengths and weaknesses of the Roman system does Cassius Dio reveal?
- Day 11: Choose Your Own Adventure with Frontinus
 - Students will select **one** of the four possible reading groups (A, B, C, D). Please coordinate within the class to make sure that all four areas are covered and that you break into roughly even groups.
 - Primary-Source Reading: Frontinus, *Stratagems*
 - All Frontinus citations refer to page numbers **within the book and not to PDF page numbers**
https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Stratagems_of_War_Translated_by_R_Sc/ILRXAAAACAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0
 - A: Discipline and Training
 - Chrissanthos, “Keeping Military Discipline” 312-329
 - Frontinus, *Stratagems* Book 1 116-127, Book 4 (Strategecon) 259-275
 - B: Logistics
 - Engels, “Logistics” 351-368
 - Frontinus, *Stratagems* Book 1 89-94, 107-108; Book 2 191-200; Book 3 243-249; Book 4 (Strategecon) 286-297
 - C: Leadership
 - Moore, “Generalship” 457-473
 - Frontinus, *Stratagems* Book 2 183-203, Book 4 (Strategecon) 276-297
 - D: Siegecraft and Engineering
 - Chaniotis, “Greeks Under Siege” 438-456
 - Frontinus, *Stratagems* Book 3 209-253
 - Discussion Questions
 - What aspects of ancient warfare in the assigned reading are applicable to the present?
 - How or how not is Frontinus an effective repository of military lessons?
- Day 12: The Late Roman Empire and the Legacy of Greek and Roman Warfare
 - Palaima and Tritle, “The Legacy of War in the Classical World” 726-742
 - Primary-Source Reading: Vegetius, *Military Institutions of the Romans* Book 3
<http://www.digitalattic.org/home/war/vegetius/>
 - Discussion Questions
 - What are the linkages between war and society?
 - Why do Greek and Roman warfare matter to people 2,000 years later?
 - What is Vegetius’ thesis?