

CLASSICAL GREEK HISTORY

Course Outline

Teacher: Mr. Jarrett Ketterling
Subject: Classical Greek History
Periods per cycle: 4.5
Room: 211
Website: <http://vweb.loyola.ca/ketterling>



Course Objectives

The secondary three Classics course is designed to provide students with a thorough introduction to the history of the ancient Greeks. Why learn about the ancient Greeks? One answer is clear: these are the people who began our civilization. Much of the world around us at this moment was created only yesterday, or the day before yesterday; and we all expect new marvels tomorrow. Machines or institutions, however, are the fruit of ideas, beliefs, and skills that do not change rapidly. Our way of thought, called Western civilization, is based on political, artistic, and intellectual principles that can be traced from the modern Western world to medieval Europe, from medieval Europe to ancient Rome, and from Rome to Greece.

We begin our adventure in the Mediterranean on the island of Crete in southern Europe that produced the continent's first civilization around 3000 BC. From here we move to the mainland and chart a course of history that will climax in 336 BC when the most glorious of history's chapters - the Golden Age of Athens - comes to an end. This classical period is later rivaled when the "Lord of Asia," Alexander the Great, spreads Hellenic culture throughout most of the known world.

Required Materials

- One hardcover three-ring binder (ring radius should be 6-8 cm or 2-3 inches) to be used solely for Classics class
- 10-12 labeled dividers for the binder
- 100 sheets of loose leaf
- Four Hilroy copybooks (32-40 pages each, no spiral bindings)
- An equipment case filled with ballpoint pens (blue, black and red ink), pencils, colored pencils, ruler, highlighters, hand sanitizer, a black Sharpie, etc.

Texts

Class text: *The Ancient Greeks* by Chester Starr
Mythology by Edith Hamilton

Website

Please refer to the Classics class website at <http://vweb.loyola.ca/ketterling> for additional course information, homework, marks and resources.

Course Content

The course is divided into five specific units of study over three terms:

THE AGE OF HEROES

The Bronze Age (2900-1000 BC): Almost 2000 years of history begins on Crete with the flowering of Europe's first civilization – the Minoans – who developed the most advanced culture in the Mediterranean for this period. From Greece's largest island, we move to the mainland Mycenaeans who reached their pinnacle about 1250 BC. This period was glorified by Classic Greeks as their "heroic age," when dishonor was worse than death and godlike warriors like Achilles and Hector clashed in "the bloody grind of war."

THE RISE FROM DARKNESS

The Dark Ages (ca. 1100-800 BC): After the mysterious demise of the Mycenaean kingdoms, society devolved into small chiefdoms. Populations plummeted, architecture and the arts vanished, but pottery yields clues to a revival toward the end of this age and signals a return of wealth, trade, and artistic innovation.

The Archaic Period (ca. 800-500 BC): Emerging from the Dark Ages, Greeks became voracious for new lands and populations increased. Exposure to new lands enriched the Greeks and resulted in the diffusion of Greek culture. As Greeks started to glorify their own culture with Panhellenic religious festivals and athletic contests, they began to see themselves as superior to "barbarians" – anyone who did not speak Greek.

THE GOLDEN AGE AND THE LORD OF ASIA

The Classical Age (ca. 500-336 BC): The Persian Empire next put Greek power to the test. Greek allies, led by Sparta and Athens, won victory against all odds and repelled the Persians. Flush with victory, Athens embarked on a path of brilliance that changed the Western world. The Greeks would reach their apex of evolution during this age after setting in motion the idea of *demokratia*, or people's power. This was one of the greatest ages in the history of civilization and to which we owe an enormous debt.

The Hellenistic Period (ca. 323-31 BC): While Greek fought Greek, a northern power, grew. Philip II united independent Macedonian tribes and ruled Greece by 338 BC. It was his son; however, Alexander the Great, the "Lord of Asia," who would conquer most of the civilized world and ensure that Greek culture would exert its influence in the world to this day.

Evaluation

Term 1:

September 3 – November 1
75% term work
10% homework
15% participation
Summary: 20%

Term 2:

November 4 – February 7
75% term work
10% homework
15% participation
Summary: 20%

Term 3:

February 10 – June 4
75% term work
10% homework
15% participation
Summary: 60%

Homework and Assignments

Always take pride in your work and hand in your assignments by the due date. If an assignment is one day late, you will lose 20%. More than one day late results in a zero.

Office Hours

Mr. Ketterling is available to meet with students during most lunch hours and often after school between 3:15 and 4:00 PM in room 211. Students may also schedule alternate times to meet.

Rules of Engagement and Expectations

- Always bring assigned reading and class materials to class.
- Students must keep their electronic devices on airplane mode and stored in their backpacks when entering class. Students may use them only when permission is given.
- Always respect your teacher, yourself, your fellow classmates, and your environment (this means always being on time for class and respecting the learning process of your peers and keeping the classroom clean).
- If you are absent for a class, you are responsible for acquiring class notes and assignments provided on that day and must make arrangements to hand in your assignment on time. Being absent does not absolve you from submitting an assignment on the due date. If you know you will be absent, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to the teacher on time or before the due date.
- Avoid plagiarism. Please refer to the Moodle site under “Library Resources” for more information.
- Always be prepared (failing to prepare is preparing to fail).

The Four Agreements

Inspired by the work of Don Miguel Ruiz, students are encouraged to keep four agreements:

- Be impeccable with your word.
- Do not take anything personally.
- Do not make assumptions.
- Always do your best.