**Classics 3335, Topics in Classical Studies (Spring 2015)**

**Herodotus, History, and Hellenism**

**TTH 11 am-12:20 pm in 207 Preston Hall**

**Charles C. Chiasson, 310 Carlisle Hall (272-3216;** [**chiasson@uta.edu**](mailto:chiasson@uta.edu)**)**

**Office Hours: TTH 12:30-1:30 pm and by appointment**

This course will focus on the unprecedented achievement of Herodotus, dubbed the “Father of History” by Cicero, as both a historian and an ethnographer. The title of Herodotus’ lone surviving work, the *Histories*, is misleading to a modern audience, since in the author’s own day the Greek word so translated, *historiai*, denoted “inquiries” or “investigations” into a broad range of topics, including geography, ethnography, natural science, medicine, and philosophy. To the best of our knowledge, Herodotus himself was the first to apply the term *historie* (the singular form of *historiai*) to the detailed study of the past. Also remarkable for his day was the focus of his narrative on the recent past, culminating in the hostilities between Greeks and Persians during the first two decades of the fifth century BC (499-479).

An important element in Herodotus’ explanation of this recent past is his ethnographic portrayal of various non-Greek peoples, including the Persians and the many nations they subjugated during the expansion of their empire. Herodotus’ description of these foreign peoples helps him to define, by comparison and contrast, what is characteristic of the Greeks themselves. While a lesser author might have presented the Greco-Persian wars as a black-and-white conflict between “us” and “them,” between “good guys” and “bad guys,” Herodotus shows a remarkable even-handedness in his approach, acknowledging both virtues among the Persians (and other non-Greeks) and vices among his fellow Hellenes.

We will read Herodotus’ *Histories* in their entirety, in Robert Strassler’s excellent Landmark edition, which includes a helpful introduction and numerous appendices of interest. Also, I will post on Blackboard, under the rubric “Course Materials,” additional readings that will help to contextualize Herodotus’ achievement. Finally, since one increasingly prominent aspect of Classical scholarship is the field of “reception studies” (the adaptation and appropriation of Greco-Roman artifacts by later cultures), we will watch and discuss the films *300 Spartans* (1962) and *300* (2006), which offer strikingly different renditions of the Herodotean Battle of Thermopylae.

**Required Textbook**

*The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories*, edited by R. Strassler, trans. by A. Purvis (Pantheon 2007)

(NO OTHER text of Herodotus is acceptable for this course!)

**Optional Textbooks**

*Herodotus*, by J. Romm (Yale UP 1998)

*Herodotus: The Histories*, trans. R. Waterfield, with introduction and notes by C. Dewald (Oxford UP 1998)

**Requirements** **and Grading**

12 weekly quizzes (detailed in schedule below)

2 exams (Mid-term on Thursday March 19; final on Tuesday May 12)

8-12 page (typed, double-spaced) paper due on Tuesday May 5

Quizzes (10 highest scores) 25% of course grade

Mid-term exam 25% “ “ “

Final Exam 25% “ “ “

Paper 25% “ “ “

**PLEASE NOTE**: since your composite quiz grade will be based on your highest ten quiz grades, you may miss two of the twelve scheduled quizzes without effect (although I wouldn’t recommend missing quizzes on purpose). There will be NO make-up quizzes given under any circumstances. If you miss an exam, a make-up can only be justified by a suitably grave and **documented** excuse. If you miss an exam unexpectedly, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible by phone or e-mail to explain those circumstances.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of the content and the cultural background of Herodotus’ *Histories*, as well as select aspects of its reception in post-Herodotean cultures.

**Attendance:**  At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

In this course I allow students to attend class at their own discretion, with the understanding that in order to do well you will need to attend regularly, with the day's reading assignment completed beforehand. In this course regular attendance is especially crucial because of the weekly quizzes, whose content will be based on the previous week’s class discussion. Although attendance (or lack thereof) will not directly affect your grade in this course, the consequences of non-attendance are predictable: students who often miss class tend to get lower grades than their more conscientious peers, and frequently end up dropping the course altogether—a waste of two precious commodities, money and time.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session [specifically, through Friday, April 3rd]. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Classroom Demeanor:** I expect that while in class you will be courteous to one another and to me. I expect you to show up for class on time and (barring unforeseen developments) to stay for the entire period.

Cell phones and their ilk are—for some, and arguably—a necessary evil outside of class. During class, when you need to focus on the material presented without external interruptions, they are (in my curmudgeonly opinion) simply, inescapably, and profoundly evil. Please turn them off, lest you distract me, yourself, and/or others. The use of laptop computers, Kindle readers, and the like in class is permissible FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES ONLY.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX**: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U. S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

**Tentative Schedule of Events**

(Reading assignments are to be completed **before** the class for which they are listed. L*H* = *The Landmark Herodotus*; quizzes will test material covered during the PREVIOUS week.)

**January**

20 T Introduction

22 TH Homer: *Iliad* books 1, 24 (Blackboard file); *LH* Introduction

sections 1-2 and Appendix Q

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chaps. 1, 2)

27 T Herodotus and Ionian *historie*: *LH* Introduction sections 3-5

29 TH QUIZ #1; The Croesus (Lydian) *logos*, 1.1-45; *LH* Appendix U; poems by Solon (Blackboard file)

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 3)

**February**

3 T The Croesus *logos*, 1.46-94; *LH* Appendix P; Bacchylides’ Epinician Ode 3 (Blackboard file)

5 TH QUIZ #2; Cyrus *logos*, 1.95-140; *LH* Appendix M

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 4)

10 T Cyrus *logos*, 1.141-216

12 TH QUIZ #3; Book 2.1-98; *LH* Appendices C and D

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 5)

17 T Book 2.99-182

19 TH QUIZ #4; Book 3.1-79

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 6)

24 T Book 3.80-160; *LH* Appendix T; Darius’ Bisitun Inscription

(Blackboard file)

26 TH QUIZ #5; Book 4.1-117

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 7)

**March**

3 T Book 4.118-205; *LH* Appendices E, F, G

5 TH QUIZ #6; The Hippocratic *Airs, Waters, Places* (Blackboard file)

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 8)

**[SPRING BREAK, March 9th to 14th]**

17 T Review; **Term paper proposal due**

19 TH **MID-TERM EXAM**

24 T Book 5.1-65; *LH* Appendix H

26 TH Book 5.66-126; *LH* Appendix A

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 9)

31 T QUIZ #7; Book 6.1-72; *LH* Appendix B

**April**

2 TH Book 6.73-140; *LH* Appendices L, N

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 10)

7 T QUIZ #8; Book 7.1-100

9 TH Book 7.101-177

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 11)

14 T Book 7.178-239; *LH* Appendix R

16 TH QUIZ #9; Discussion of the film *300 Spartans*

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 12)

21 T Discussion of the film *300*

23 TH QUIZ #10; Book 8.1-69

(RECOMMENDED: Romm chap. 13)

28 T Book 8.70-144; *LH* Appendix S

30 TH QUIZ #11; Book 9.1-75; Simonides’ Plataea elegy

(Blackboard file)

**May**

5 T Book 9.76-121; *LH* Appendix O

**TERM PAPERS DUE**

7 TH QUIZ #12; Herodotus and Aeschylus’ *Persians* (Blackboard files #1 [text] and #2 [notes])

12 T **FINAL EXAM**, 11am - 1:30 pm