

## ADVANCED GREEK: THUCYDIDES

ICCS Catania - Fall 2009

Marco J. Zangari

Meeting Times: M & W 9.00 – 10.20

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Office Hours: T. 2.00 – 3.00, W. 12.00 – 1.00 or by appointment

### INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES:

In this class we will read portions of books six and seven of Thucydides' (T) unfinished and incredibly stunning *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Books six and seven will focus our attention upon the island of Sicily in general and upon the city of Syracuse in particular so that we may attempt to set the Sicilian Expedition's narrative function within the larger framework of T's historical work. To that end, we will examine the prose style of T, his historical method, and his rhetorical strategies. Though the aims of our inquiries are manifold, the primary objectives are: to translate T without doing undue damage to the English language and to translate his prose with a certain amount of ease; to demonstrate an understanding of T's strategies as a historian; and to integrate these readings with your understanding of Syracusan, cultural topography as experienced in the field.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Macdowell, D.M. *Gorgias: Encomium of Helen*. Duckworth Publishing, 1982 (ISBN: 978-0862920531)

Thucydides, *Historiae*, Vol. II. H.S. Jones, ed. Oxford University Press, 1942.

Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Tr. Rex Warner. Penguin Books, 1974, (ISBN: 9780140440393)

### STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Dover, K.J. *History of the Peloponnesian War: Bk. 6*. Bristol Classical Press, 1999 (ISBN: 978-1853995873)

Dover, K.J. *Thucydides Book VII*. Clarendon Press, 1971 (ASIN: B0012GHWUW)

Shelmerdine, Cynthia W. *Thucydides: Book 6*. Bryn Mawr Commentaries, 1989 (ISBN: 978-0929524351)

### ONLINE RESOURCES:

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS & FORMAT:

The class features your translations of the assigned passages in Greek along with discussion. The discussion itself is driven through direct engagement with the text whether in Greek or English as well as articles assigned during the course of the semester. Since the class is predicated on your preparation, attendance is mandatory. In addition to the specific topics outlined below, I encourage you to push yourself; to be rigorous in your analysis without being too limiting; to be generous with your own questions without being too self-indulgent; and to treat your colleagues with the respect that you expect from them in return.

### IV. Tests & Other Diagnostics

There will be two midterms and a final exam. Please take note that the final is scheduled on Monday, December, 14, 9.30 – 12.30, and cannot be changed. Both the midterms and the final follow the same structure. In the first section, you will be asked to choose a passage from a sampling of two and to translate the one chosen. In the second, you will answer questions of

morphology and syntax. In the third, you will have a sight passage to translate that could be from anywhere in T's history.

A fifteen minute presentation on an article relevant to the Sicilian Expedition or any passage from books six and seven, that was not covered in Greek, will be expected of you sometime after week nine. A schedule of presentations will be forthcoming.

A research paper will be written by you; its length will be between six and nine pages. In week twelve, you will hand in a topic statement about your paper as well as a short annotated bibliography. It will receive a grade separate from that of the final paper.

Other small writing assignments will be considered part of your participation grade (exactly ten percent of your grade overall), see below, and will take the form of one page responses to the readings from week to week.

#### V. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

Participation	30%
Presentation	10%
Paper	30%
Midterms	20%
Final	10%

#### SOME POLICIES AND RULES OF THE ROAD:

Keep it real; do not plagiarize. If your home institution offers you resources about plagiarism and academic honesty, please refer to them. If you had to sign an academic integrity contract of some sort upon entering university or college, please remember that moment. And, if you need further information about this topic, please ask me.

Emergencies do arise in the course of a semester. Should one occur, whether medical or family related, an extension will be forthcoming (from me) once proper documentation is offered (by you). All other papers handed in after the stated deadline will be gladly accepted with the penalty of one-half grade per day late (i.e. five percentage points).