

# ATHENS AND SPARTA WAR AND PEACE, JUSTICE AND LAW

IAH 221A Great Ages: The Ancient World  
105 South Kedzie Building, TTh 3:00–4:20 p.m. + 50 min./wk. online

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**Required texts:** Accept no other translations; bring your books to class on the days they're being discussed.

Homer, *Iliad*, tr. Stanley Lombardo (Hackett, 1997)

Aeschylus, *Oresteia*, tr. Peter Meineck (Hackett, 1998)

Thucydides, *On Justice, Power, and Human Nature: The Essence of Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War*, tr. Paul Woodruff, ed. (Hackett, 1993)

Aristophanes, *Clouds*, tr. Peter Meineck, in C. D. C. Reeve, ed., *The Trials of Socrates* (Hackett 2002)

Plato, *Republic*, tr. G. M. A. Grube, rev. C. D. C. Reeve (Hackett, 1992)

Sophocles, *Ajax*, tr. Peter Meineck and Paul Woodruff in *Four Tragedies* (Hackett, 2007)

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, tr. Jeffrey Henderson (Focus, 1988)

Xenophon, *Socrates' Defense to the Jury* in C. D. C. Reeve, ed., *The Trials of Socrates* (Hackett 2002)

Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, and Phaedo*, in C. D. C. Reeve, ed., *The Trials of Socrates* (Hackett, 2002)

Euripides, *Bacchae*, tr. Paul Woodruff (Hackett, 1998)

**Course description and goals:** Together, we will explore Greece in the classical period, concentrating on Athens and Sparta at war. We'll begin with Homer's Trojan War for background, then move on to the West's first courts of law, asking ourselves whether what is legal is in fact just. Reading original texts (in translation), seeing performances, and becoming familiar with the greatest literature in the West, students will (of course) learn about Athens and Sparta during the long war; but the big surprise payoff—even if it is hard to believe in advance—is that virtually all aspects of our twenty-first century lives in the West were foreshadowed and shaped by classical Greece.

Schedule of readings to be completed *before* class:

		ACHILLES IN VIETNAM, 95-MIN. FILM 75 POINTS
1/10	introduction to course and to LON-CAPA	
1/12	EPIC Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1 and 2 (lns. 1-54, 226-300, 472-521, 873-932), 3	
1/17	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 6 (1-5, 103-558), 9 (186-738), 12 (259-499), 16 (1-317, 381-430, 455-586, 667-906), 18 (1-259, 504-661)	
1/19	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 19 (1-87, 294-453), 22, 23 (1-283), 24 (497-860)	
1/24	<i>Achilles in Vietnam</i> (3:00-4:50) Note the time. <i>No partial credit</i> if you arrive late or leave early.	
1/26	<b>TEST 1</b> is available <i>only</i> 3:00-4:20 today on LON-CAPA (log in from a computer lab, the library, or home)	
1/31	TRAGEDY Aeschylus, <i>Oresteia</i> 1: <i>Agamemnon</i>	
2/2	Aeschylus, <i>Oresteia</i> 3: <i>The Furies</i>	
2/7	<i>Olympics</i> film. <b>TEST 2</b> (scantron scoring in the classroom)	
2/9	HISTORY Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , ch. 1 and essential background information	
2/14	Athens and Sparta contrasts: essential background on males, females and governmental structure	
2/16	<b>TEST 3</b> is available <i>only</i> 3:00-4:20 today on LON-CAPA (computer lab, library, home)	
2/21	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , ch. 2	
2/23	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , chs. 3-4	
2/28	TRAGEDY Sophocles, <i>Ajax</i> (all)	
3/1	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , ch. 5	
HAPPY SPRING BREAK!		
3/13	<b>TEST 4</b> is available <i>only</i> 3:00-4:20 today on LON-CAPA (computer lab, library, home)	
3/15	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , ch. 6	
3/20	COMEDY Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i> (all)—in Reeve 2002	

THEATRE OF WAR  
PERFORMANCE TROOP  
100 POINTS

3/22	PHILOSOPHY Plato, <i>Republic</i> 1
3/27	Plato, <i>Republic</i> 2 (to 376c)
3/29	Plato, <i>Republic</i> 5 (to 474b) <b>TEST 5</b> (only during the window you chose)
4/3	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , chs. 7-8
4/5	Thucydides, <i>The History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , chs. 7-8
4/10	COMEDY Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> (all)
4/12	Plato, <i>Republic</i> 5.474b-7.518d <b>TEST 6</b> (only during the window you chose)
4/17	Plato, <i>Apology</i> —in Reeve 2002
4/19	BIOGRAPHY Xenophon, <i>Socrates' Defense</i> ; PHILOSOPHY Plato, <i>Crito</i> and <i>Phaedo</i> —in Reeve 2002
4/24	TRAGEDY Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i> (all)
4/26	<b>TEST 7</b> is available <i>only</i> 3:00-4:20 today on LON-CAPA (computer lab, library, home)
<b>FINAL EXAM Thursday 3 May, 3:00-5:00 p.m. on LON-CAPA</b> (computer lab, library, home)	

**Evaluation:** The course is structured to enable students to accumulate at *least* 1,000 points distributed among tests (700) covering both the readings and lectures, activities (200), and the comprehensive final exam (300). Extra points obviate the need for make-ups. After all your points have been tallied, they be converted to an average; only then may the grades be curved (only beneficially), then converted to a percentage. It *is* possible to have more than 100%, but the following scale will give you an idea of the range. Scale: 940–1000+ = 4.0; 880–939 = 3.5; 820–879 = 3.0; 760–819 = 2.5; 700–759 = 2.0; 640–699 = 1.5; and 580–639 = 1.0. *No matter how many points you have accumulated, you must **take** the final to pass the course.*

### **Policies:**

1. This course can be used for credit in Peace and Justice Studies.
2. It is essential that you have a *reliable Internet connection* (at home, in the library, or in one of MSU's many computer labs) so you can use your additional 50 minutes per week and take the *timed on-line tests* on LON-CAPA. *Practice connecting to LON-CAPA.* You must know the material in the texts and lectures well to be able to pass because there will be no time for looking things up in your books during the tests. When you click "begin", the clock starts, and you cannot pause or go back to change an answer. One try per question.
3. There are *no make-ups* in this course because they are not needed. Extra points are available (i.e. more than are required to earn a 4.0).
4. Find a buddy or start a study group! Share ideas and opinions, and study together for tests. If you miss class, you'll need your buddy or group to share class notes (what's on LON-CAPA still has to be *explained*).
5. In the classroom, turn off any device that rings, buzzes, whistles, or plays music. Don't distract your classmates.
6. The best place to take notes is in the margins of your book. If you want to use your laptop for that purpose, sit on the back row of the classroom so that your screen won't distract anyone else.
7. You are expected to study each work listed on the syllabus *before* it is discussed in class (and you should leave yourself time to read it more than once). Check LON-CAPA for *help* with the readings and a list of what can be skipped from Homer and Aeschylus. Although you may see a film or listen to a recording of an assigned text, *be sure to have your book open* because all the identification passages on tests and the final exam will be taken from the particular *translations* we discuss in class.
8. *Academic Freedom and Integrity.* Article 2.3.3 of the *Academic Freedom Report* states that "the student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Department of Philosophy adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in *General Student Regulations* 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades, and in the All-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades, included in *Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide*. Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty may receive a 0.0 on the assignment or in the course. If you are having trouble with the course, I *especially encourage* you to come to office hours.
9. *Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.* Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodation. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY).
10. If you are having trouble with the course, we *especially encourage* you to make use of drop-in office hours.