

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: HIST-290: Special Topics in History: Greek and Roman History

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Winter 2025

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-Person

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Christian Lieb

EMAIL: LiebC@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Young 323 (Lansdowne)

OFFICE HOURS: In Person: Mon. / Wed. 9:30-10:30; 2:30-3:30 and Tues. 5:00-6:00 – or by e-mail

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to selected topics or problems in history. The topics may vary from term to term, focusing on a particular period, topic or genre of history. They will include, but are not limited to, regional, national, international, gender or class studies.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in ENGL 151
- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164
- C in any HIST 100-level course

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Identify the critical themes, events and issues relating to the course topic.
2. Evaluate historical changes over time.

3. Critically analyze historical sources.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of history as a distinct academic discipline.
5. Apply historical information and historical analysis to confront the issues of today's world, establishing a context for the present and comprehending the accomplishments, failures, tensions and issues of the present era.
6. Demonstrate skills in research, and in written and oral communication.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

1. Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE* (3rd Ed. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021) – ISBN: 978-0-19-008094-5.
2. Camosun College Department of Humanities History Style Guide, available on D2L.
3. Seminar readings: links on Hist. 290 D2L site – see details in course outline, below

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Week 1 (Jan. 6-12)

Mon. Jan. 6: Course Business and Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages, 1100-500 BCE


 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*, Chapter 6.

Wed. Jan. 8: Seminar: Greece in the Dark Ages


 Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 1 <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>

Week 2 (Jan. 13-19)

Mon. Jan. 13: LECTURE: Sparta, Athens, and the Classical Age, 500-387 BCE

 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*, Chapter 7 (p. 205-225).

Wed. Jan. 15: Seminar: Athens and Sparta

 Spartan Education (ca. 750 BCE): Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus* and The Constitutions of Athens (800-507 BCE): Aristotle, *The Athenian Constitution*, in: Ralph W. Mathisen, *Sources in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: Documents, Maps, and Images* (New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 195-205. Paul Cartledge, "[Ostracism: selection and de-selection in ancient Greece](#)," *History & Policy* (July 2006).

Week 3 (Jan. 20-26)

Mon. Jan. 20: LECTURE: History of Greek Philosophy (Guest Lecture)


Wed. Jan. 22: Seminar: Library Research Seminar

Week 4 (Jan. 27-Feb. 2)

Mon. Jan. 27: LECTURE: The Peloponnesian War and the Demise of the Polis

 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*, Chapter 7 (225-246).

Wed. Jan. 29: Seminar: The Effects of the Peloponnesian War on Athens

 Pericles's Funeral Oration and the Plague of Athens (431-430 BCE): Thucydides, *Histories*, Book 2.34-54; An Assessment of Athenian Democracy (ca. 425 BCE): *The Old Oligarchy*; and The Death of Socrates (399 BCE): Plato, *Phaedo* 15.115A-118A, in: Ralph W. Mathisen, *Sources in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: Documents*,

Maps, and Images (New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 209-220 and p. 232-235.

Week 5 (Feb. 3-9)

Mon. Feb. 3: LECTURE: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age, 387-31 BCE

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 8.*

Wed. Feb. 5: Seminar: Military Campaigns of Alexander the Great

📖 David J. Lonsdale, "Alexander the Great and the Art of Adaptation," *The Journal of Military History* 77 (July 2013): 817-835.

Week 6 (Feb. 10-16)

Mon. Feb. 10: LECTURE: Roman Culture (Guest Lecture)

👉 **MIDTERM EXAM** due at 10:00 am on Feb. 10, 2025

Wed. Feb. 12: Midterm Exam review

Week 7 (Feb. 17-23) - **Reading Break** – no classes

Week 8 (Feb. 24-March 2)

Mon. Feb. 24: LECTURE: The Rise of Rome and the Roman Republic, 753-120

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 10* (p. 339-362).

Wed. Feb. 26: Seminar: How to Write a Research Paper

📖 See *Hist. Dept. Style Guide* and *Short Guide for Research Paper* on D2L

Week 9 (March 3-9)

Mon. March 3: LECTURE: The Punic Wars and Rome's Mediterranean Hegemony

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 10* (p. 362-378).

Wed. March 5: Seminar: The 2nd Punic War

📖 Arthur M. Eckstein, "Polybius, 'the Treaty of Philinus', and Roman Accusations against Carthage," *The Classical Quarterly, New Series*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (December 2010), pp. 406-426.

Week 10 (March 10-16)

Mon. March 10: LECTURE: From Republic to the Principate, 150-21 BCE

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 11.*

Wed. March 12: Seminar: Social Inequality and the Demise of the Roman Republic

📖 Jack Morato, "Praecipitia in Ruinam: The Decline of the Small Roman Farmer and The Fall of the Roman Republic," *International Social Science Review* Vol. 92, No. 1 (2016), p. 1-28.

👉 **Research Paper due on D2L at Midnight (11:59 pm), March 12**

Week 11 (March 17-23)

Mon. March 17: LECTURE: The Empire and Roman Peace, 27 BCE-192 CE

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 12.*

Wed. March 19: Seminar: Age of Empire

📖 Alison E. Cooley, "From the Augustan Principate to the Invention of the Age of Augustus," *Journal of Roman Studies* Vol. 109 (Nov. 2019), p. 71-87.

Week 12 (March 24-30)

Mon. March 24: LECTURE: The Crises of the 3rd Century and Recovery, 192-337

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 13.*

Wed. March 26: Seminar: The Break-down of the Diocletian Tetrarchy

📖 Stanislav Dolezal, “The Political and Military Aspects of Accession of Constantine the Great,” *Graeco-Latina Brunensia* Vol. 24, No. 2 (2019), p. 19-32.

Week 13 (March 31-April 6)

Mon. March 31: LECTURE: The Late Roman Empire, 337-476

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 14.*

Wed. April 2: Seminar: The End of the Western Roman Empire

📖 Peter Heather, “The Huns and the End of the Roman Empire in Western Europe,” *The English Historical Review* Vol. 110, No. 435 (Feb. 1995), p. 4-41.

Week 14 (April 7-12)

Mon. April 7: The End of Antiquity

📖 Ralph W. Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Chapter 15.*

Wed. April 9: Seminar: Exam Review

☞ **Final Exam Questions will become visible on D2L on April 9 at 12:00 noon**

FINAL EXAM: ☞ Wednesday April 16: Final Exam due on D2L at midnight (11:59 pm)

☞ **Note:** All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. **Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.** Violations may result in disciplinary action.

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Discussion Groups	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	25%
	TOTAL
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1) **Discussion Groups (20%):**

Since discussion groups only work when students are well-acquainted with the assigned readings, one requirement of the seminars will be to provide a short (minimum one page) commentary containing the following points:

- **Briefly summarize the articles and / or primary documents (i.e. what are they telling you about the topic)**
- **Identify the main arguments and themes of the readings**
- **Write a short paragraph in which you outline the most important question(s) that the readings raised for you.**

This will help you to focus your thoughts for the discussions and will train you to identify the main arguments of the texts you read. These short commentaries will not be graded individually but will assist in determining the quality of your participation (of course, only in addition to your oral participation during the discussions – see below).

The discussion groups count for 20% of the final grade in the course. You will receive 30% of the discussion grade by being physically present, 30% will be based on the discussion paper (full marks for all papers that fully cover the above points), and 40% will be based on the quality and frequency of your oral participation (with an emphasis on contributions that demonstrate critical engagement with the material).

To ensure discussions are effective, students must read and think about the assigned material in advance of coming to class and bring the short paper – see instructions above. In class, students will not only discuss the content of the material but more importantly will discuss their interpretations of the assigned material, the authors' thesis and main points, and, where applicable, the sources and evidence the authors used to make their arguments.

2) **Midterm Exam (25%):**

In lieu of the regular midterm exam we will have two 500-600-word essay responses that will include questions on material from lectures and the textbook covered to that point in the course and potentially also the discussion readings. The aim will be to combine your textbook, article readings and the material from the Powerpoint lectures to demonstrate contextual understanding of developments relevant to the course. **The questions for the two papers will be posted on D2L five days before the due date (Wed. Feb. 5 at 12:00 noon)** and will be submitted online through the **D2L submission box at 10:00 am on Monday February 10, 2025** – please combine the two responses into a single Microsoft Word or PDF document.

3) **Research Paper (30%)**

This essay requires a minimum of **four academic secondary and one primary source**. Choose a written primary source as the basis for your essay topic. Many of the classical works are available online in full text or at various libraries. In addition, the paper requires a minimum of **four academic and recent secondary sources** (books or articles written by historians and published by university presses or academic journals) accessible through the Camosun Library (or also try the UVic library if you cannot find enough material at Camosun). **Search for secondary sources that are footnoted and at least 15 pages in length** (shorter works will not provide the necessary details you need to support your own argument in the paper). Avoid the use of online secondary sources since

most of them are not peer reviewed (i.e. not academic) and are likely too short. Please draw on information from the minimum of four secondary sources you found and make sure to use the History Department Style Guide, available on D2L under “Course Resources.”

There is additional information on D2L and in a seminar on “How to write a Research Paper” – see schedule above. This essay will be about 1,500-2,000 words in length and will be marked based on the effectiveness of the research and argument, writing style and grammar, as well as the use of proper academic footnoting (Chicago Style – see style guide).

Qualities of a Good Essay:

- **Critical analysis.** Original and independent thought. What do you think about the material you have found? Why did you make the argument that you did? Which sources are more convincing and why? How are your sources biased? A well-balanced essay will include information that may disagree with your thesis as long as you explain why you are more convinced by one source than by another.
- **Clear argument and organization.** State your thesis in the introduction and develop it in a well-organized paper. The thesis statement is an answer to the research question. Based on the research you have done, take a point of view and defend it. The information you present should be logically organized and support your thesis statement. Beginning each paragraph with a topic sentence that is connected to the argument helps to guide the reader.
- **Strong evidence.** Is the paper based on adequate evidence from relevant primary and secondary sources? Is the evidence sufficient to convincingly support the thesis? Is the evidence critically examined? How well does your paper integrate and engage with the primary and secondary sources?
- **Footnotes and bibliography.** All evidence that is not common knowledge should be referenced using correct footnote style. Use footnotes when you are quoting another person and even when you are paraphrasing another person’s ideas or findings in your own words. The *History Department Style Guide* explains what format you should use for footnotes and bibliography.
- **Good writing style.** The essay should be well written, have no spelling errors, and be grammatically correct. It should also be interesting to read. Avoid long block quotes (and frequently quoting secondary sources) – it is better to summarize and put information in your own words. Writing several drafts and reading your work aloud both help improve the quality of your writing.

The Research Paper is due on D2L on Wednesday March 12, 2025 at Midnight (11:59 pm).

4) Final Exam (25%):

Similar to the Midterm exam, in the final exam, you will be asked to identify the contexts of the major themes covered in the lectures and discussion groups, and to discuss these with reference to significant names, dates and locations in these take-home exams. **Final Exam questions will be posted on D2L a week prior to the due date (Wed. April 9 at 12:00 noon).**

The Final Exam papers are due in the D2L submission box at midnight (11:59 pm) on Wednesday April 16, 2025 – please combine the two responses into a single Word or PDF document.

Due dates: Assignments must be submitted to the online submission box on D2L at the time and date listed above.

Marks will be deducted at the rate of 5% per day for late assignments. If your assignment is late because of illness or family affliction, please make sure to inform the instructor by e-mail as soon as possible – ideally before the deadline. **No assignments will be accepted after the final class day on April 12, 2025 without prior permission from the instructor.**

Note: If you find you are unable to complete an assignment, please e-mail me prior to the due dates, or as close to them as possible. It is the student's responsibility to inform me of any difficulties completing course components.

A Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the course and/or further disciplinary action by the College. Please see the Student Conduct Policy.

What is plagiarism?

1. The use of another person's words (sentences/phrases/paragraphs) without including quotation marks and footnotes. This applies to any written work published in book, text, or magazine form, or anything located on the Internet. In other words, it is plagiarism if someone copies and pastes work from the Internet and presents that work as his/her own.
2. Paraphrasing any author's words or ideas without using a footnote to cite the source.
3. Copying another student's work, either on assignments or exams.

More information can be found in the Arts and Science Academic Honesty Guidelines, posted in the Course Overview on D2L.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

Support Service	Website
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:
<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.