

**DEPARTMENT OF GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES 413 FALL 2010**  
**Topics in Greek History: "INSIDE CLASSICAL SPARTA"**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr Noreen Humble  
**TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS:** TR 12.30-13.45, ST 027  
**OFFICE AND OFFICE HOURS:** SS 514, by appointment  
**CONTACT:** 220-4560/nmhumble@ucalgary.ca

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Cartledge, Paul (2004) *The Spartans*, Woodstock/New York.  
Talbert, R.J.A. (ed.) (2005) *Plutarch on Sparta* (Penguin revised edition), London.  
Other readings will be assigned in class; important material will be given on handouts.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Classical Sparta was one of the most powerful states in ancient Greece in the 5<sup>th</sup> and early 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Though we have no contemporary written material extant from Spartan writers, most people have fairly powerful images of what they think life in Classical Sparta was like. The objectives of this course are to examine the image we have of Sparta, focussing not on her military exploits but on her social and political setup. We will critically assess what ancient evidence there is, and at the same time deconstruct the modern image. We will concentrate on source criticism and the difficulties in recreating and defining aspects of Spartan life where sources conflict or are heavily biased. Students will emerge from the course with a more nuanced and gradated view of the internal workings of Classical Sparta, and the critical tools either to go on to further study of ancient Greece or indeed to apply to the study of other cultures.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Two in-class tests focusing on source material:

- a) October 19: 25%
- b) November 18: 25%

One book review exercise (2000 words), due November 30\* (the book to review will be directly linked to the research essay topic you pick and form an integral part of it): 15%

One research essay (4000 words), due December 9\*\* (topics tba): 35%

\*Note: late book review exercises will be penalized 2% per day

\*\*Note: late essays will be penalized 5% per day

**GRADING SCALE:**

A+: 95 -100	B: 75 -79	C-: 55 -59
A: 90 – 94	B-: 70 -74	D+ 50 -54
A-: 85 -89	C+: 65 -69	D: 45 -49
B+: 80 -84	C: 60 -64	F: 0 -44

**NOTES:**

1. The withdrawal deadline for this course is **December 10, 2010**. The instructor will inform students of their grades currently earned in the course for four weeks before this deadline. **The last day to withdraw with a refund of fees is September 24, 2010.**
2. The Department of Greek and Roman Studies draws the attention of all students in its courses to the University regulations on plagiarism, cheating and other misconduct printed in the Student Misconduct section of the 2010-2011 University Calendar (found online at <http://www.ucalgar.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>). If you need guidance about these issues please do not hesitate to contact me.
3. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

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#### **USEFUL GENERAL WORKS ON HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE PERIOD:**

(for consultation by those of you who have not taken any ancient Greek history before)

Bury, J.B. & Meiggs, R (1975) *A History of Greece to the death of Alexander the Great*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., London

Cartledge, P. (2002) *The Greeks: a portrait of self and others*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford.

Hornblower, S. (2002) *The Greek World, 479-323 BC*, London

Osborne, R. (2000) *Classical Greece, 500-323 BC*, Oxford

Rhodes, P. (2006) *A History of the Classical Greek World, 478-323 BC*, Oxford

Sealey, R. (1976) *A History of the Greek City States, 700-338 BC*, Berkeley

Talbert, R.J. (1985) *Atlas of Classical History*, London

(Further bibliography on Sparta will be handed out in the second week of classes along with the essay topics and book review exercise.)