

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Civilizations of the Ancient World • Spring 2023

For each meeting, please come into class having read *and thought about* the readings assigned for that class.

Readings listed with the book icon (📖) are from the assigned textbook, Mathisen, *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*, 3d Edition.

Everything listed under each meeting—the textbook readings, *Gilgamesh*, and *Clouds*—is fair game for the quizzes we'll have at the start of some meetings.

January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31

1 Introduction and Themes

Thursday, January 26

Watch the Welcome and Orientation Video

📖 "Laying the Groundwork" (pp. 3-5)

📖 "The Palaeolithic Age" (pp. 5-13)

2 The Origins of Civilization

Tuesday, January 31

📖 "The Neolithic World" (pp. 13-24)

📖 "The Chalcolithic Period" (pp. 24-33)

3 Mesopotamia

Thursday, February 2

📖 "The Origins of Mesopotamian Civilization" (pp. 37-45)

📖 "The Rise of Sumerian Civilization" (pp. 45-52)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Introduction

(pages xiii-xvi, xxxi-xxxii)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 1 [see next page]

4 Sumer

Tuesday, February 7

📖 "Historical Sumer" (pp. 52-60)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 2

5 Semitic Mesopotamia

Thursday, February 9

📖 "The Semitic Peoples and the First Near Eastern Empires" (pp. 60-75)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 5

6 God-Kings of Egypt

Tuesday, February 14

📖 "Before The Pharaohs" (pp. 77-84)

📖 "The Early Dynastic Period" (pp. 84-92)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 6

7 Egyptian Empires

Thursday, February 16

📖 "The Old Kingdom" (pp. 92-97)

📖 "The Middle Kingdom" (pp. 97-103)

📖 "The New Kingdom" (pp. 103-109)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 7

Tuesday, February 21

No meeting (Monday classes meet)

8 The Bronze Age Aegean

Thursday, February 23

📖 "Early Civilizations of the Levant" (pp. 111-113)

📖 "Aegean Civilizations" (pp. 113-125)

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 11

9 Dawn of the Iron Age

Tuesday, February 28

📖 "The Iron Age" (pp. 125-131)

📖 "The Hebrews" (pp. 131-140)

10 How Not to Run an Empire: The Assyrians

Thursday, March 2

📖 "The Assyrian Empire" (pp. 142-155)

📖 "The Successors of the Assyrians" (pp. 155-159)

11 The Success of the Persian Empire

Tuesday, March 7

📖 "The Persian Empire" (pp. 159-163)

📖 "Darius and the Operation ..." (pp. 163-171)

⚠️ Essay #1 is due on Monday, March 6.

12 The Greek Dark Age

Thursday, March 9

📖 "The Greek Dark Ages" (pp. 175-180)

📖 "Construction of Greek Identity" (pp. 180-187)

13 Midterm Exam

Tuesday, March 14

14 Ancient Asia: China, India, and the Steppes

Thursday, March 16

📖 "The Eurasian Steppes" (pp. 296-301)

📖 "Eastern Asia" (pp. 301-310)

🏠 Clouds, Section 1 [see below]

15 Archaic Hellas

Tuesday, March 21

📖 "The Archaic Age" (pp. 187-202)

🏠 Clouds, Section 2

16 Sparta and Athens

Thursday, March 23

📖 "The Spartan Way" (pp. 205-211)

📖 "The Rise of Athens" (pp. 211-218)

🏠 Clouds, Section 3

17 The Persian Menace

Tuesday, March 28

📖 "The Greeks and Persia" (pp. 218-226)

📖 "The Golden Age of Athens" (pp. 226-231)

🏠 Clouds, Section 4

18 Wars Between the Greeks

Thursday, March 30

📖 "The Peloponnesian War" (pp. 231-246)

🏠 Clouds, Section 5

19 The Rise of Macedon

Tuesday, April 4

📖 "After the Peloponnesian War" (pp. 249-257)

📖 "The Age of Alexander" (pp. 257-265)

🏠 Clouds, Section 6

April 6, 11, 13

No meeting (Spring Recess)

20 The Legacy of Alexander

Tuesday, April 18

📖 "The Hellenistic Kingdoms" (pp. 265-279)

⚠️ Essay #2 is due on Monday, April 17.

21 Early Rome

Thursday, April 20

📖 "Carthage" (pp. 319-326)

📖 "Cultural Encounters" (pp. 339-341)

📖 "Rome of the Kings" (pp. 341-349)

22 The Roman Republic

Tuesday, April 25

📖 "The Early Roman Republic" (pp. 349-356)

23 The Acquisition of Empire

Thursday, April 27

📖 "Warfare and Expansion" (pp. 356-371)

24 The Republican Crisis

Tuesday, May 2

📖 "From One Crisis to the Next" (pp. 379-390)

25 Collapse of the Republic

Thursday, May 4

📖 "An Age of Generals" (pp. 390-399)

26 Crossing the Rubicon

Tuesday, May 9

📖 "The Triumvirates" (pp. 399-409)

📖 "Establishment of the Principate" (pp. 409-414)

27 Augustus, Princeps, Imperator

Thursday, May 11

📖 "The Age of Augustus" (pp. 415-430)

28 The Roman Principate

Tuesday, May 16

📖 "Julio-Claudian, Flavian Dynasties" (pp. 430-440)

📖 "The Antonine Dynasty (96-192)" (pp. 440-451)

⚠️ Essay #3 is due on Monday, May 15.

29 Final Exam

Tuesday, May 23

The final exam will be held in-person from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in our normal meeting room.

Tablets in The Epic of Gilgamesh

Page numbers refer to the Andrew George (Penguin) edition assigned for this class. Only the starred tablets (★) are assigned for meetings. That said, reading the whole thing might help you with your essay.

★ 1.	The Coming of Enkidu	pages 1-11
★ 2.	The Taming of Enkidu	12-22
3.	Preparations for the Expedition	22-29
4.	The Journey to the Forest of Cedar	30-39
★ 5.	The Combat with Humbaba	39-47
★ 6.	Ishtar and the Bull of Heaven	47-54
★ 7.	The Death of Enkidu	54-62
8.	The Funeral of Enkidu	62-69
9.	The Wanderings of Gilgamesh	70-75
10.	At the Edge of the World	75-87
★ 11.	Immortality Denied	88-99

Sections in Clouds

Page numbers refer to the Wests' *Four Texts on Socrates* assigned for this class. Any good edition will have line numbers; see me if yours doesn't. We are reading the whole play (it's not very long).

	lines	pages
West's Introduction		29-37
1. Strepsiades's Problem	1-13	115-120
2. The Thinkery	133-365	120-130
3. Gods and Memory	366-518	131-136
Clouds' Response 1	518-626	136-141
4. Hen and Cock	627-888	141-151
5. The Debate	889-1114	151-161
Clouds' Response 2	1115-1130	161
Old and New Day	1131-1213	161-164
6. The Creditor	1214-1320	165-169
New Morality	1321-1492	169-176
The Purge	1493-1510	176