



Introduction and Evidence

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting # 1

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What is this course?

History of Ancient Greece
HIA 320/720, cross-listed with LEH 354

Thursdays
6:00 – 8:40 p.m. in Carman 209

markbwilson.com/courses/BB/BB_ag/



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Who am I?

Mark Wilson
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Dept. of History

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- Carman 292
- Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.



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Five things today

- The Aegean world
- The course website
- Essays and assignments
- Evidence
- Greek writing

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The Aegean world

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The ancient Greeks

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How are we connected to the Greeks?

- Language
- Laws
 - Ideas of justice, society
 - Government
 - Citizen
- Technology
- Arts, literature
- Philosophy and science
- Religion

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Land and Sea

- Ancient identities tend to focus on city centers
- Ancient cultures are connected by water

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The Aegean world

- Many islands
- Many mountains and valleys
- Leads to insular communities with strong local identities

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Aegean culture

- Extremely strong local identities
- Shared language and heritage

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Hellas

- The Greek name for "Greek"
- Those who share the Greek language, and
- A belief that civilization is more than mere survival


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Aretē

- To excel beyond what you are
- Advancing the individual advances the community

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Approaching the course

- Come to class prepared
- Read critically
- Ask questions
- Take notes
- Discuss with each other
- Manage your time
- Use me as a resource

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The course website

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Questions about whatever



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markbwilson.com

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Periodization

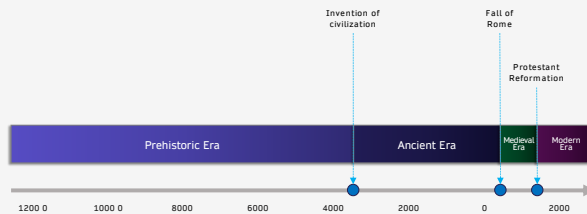
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The "Common Era" calendar



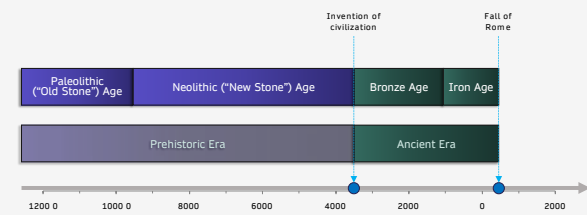
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Eras of (Mediterranean) history



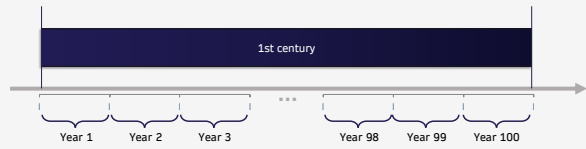
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Ages of technology



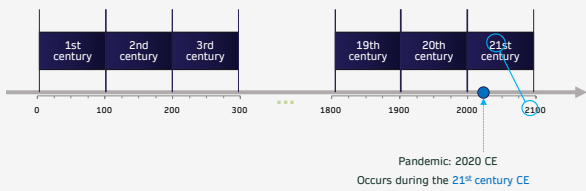
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Counting centuries



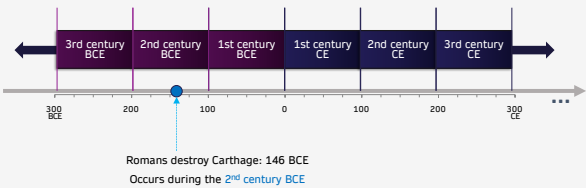
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Counting centuries




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Counting centuries



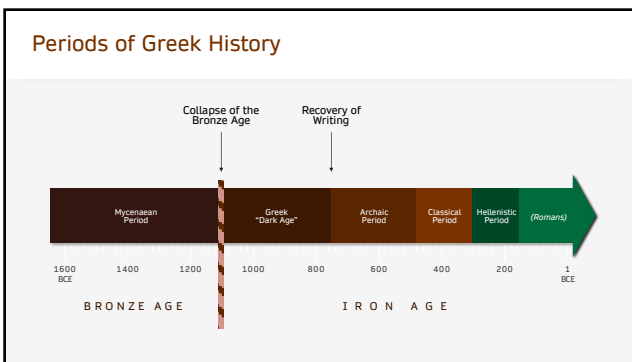
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Periodization

- Historians divide history into “eras” based on how we can characterize society
- Archaeologists divide history into “ages” based on changes in prevalent technology
- These periods help organize our studies, but also overgeneralize places and times within each period

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Greek writing

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Greek writing

- Greeks of the Bronze age had a writing system called "Linear B"
- Lost with the collapse of the Bronze Age
- Gained a new writing system in the Iron Age, the Greek alphabet

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Linear B

- Bronze Age writing system
- Syllabic
- High learning curve

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Greek alphabet

- Iron Age writing system
- Phonetic symbols
- Easily learned and spread
- Fostered the recording of culture

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The Greek alphabet

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω
α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω
αι αυ ει οι ου

Όμηρος Σωκράτης
Έλλάς
Μάρκος Όνίλσον

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Greek Alphabet Affects History



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Some Greek names

Homer	Greek epic poet	8th century BCE	Όμηρος
Hesiod	Greek poet	Early 7th century BCE	Ησίοδος
Sappho	Greek lyric poet	c. 620 – c. 570 BCE	Σαπφώ
Pindar	Theban lyric poet	522 – 443 BCE	Πίνδαρος
Herodotus	Greek historian	484 – 425 BCE	Ηρόδοτος
Thucydides	Athenian general and historian	c. 460 – c. 395 BCE	Θουκυδίδης
Aeschylus	Greek tragic playwright	c. 525 – c. 426 BCE	Αίσχύλος
Euripides	Athenian tragic playwright	480 – 406 BCE	Ευριπίδης
Solon	Athenian statesman and poet	c. 638 – 558 BCE	Σόλων
Xenophon	Athenian general and historian	c. 430 – 354 BCE	Ξενοφών
Socrates	Athenian philosopher	470–399 BCE	Σωκράτης
Plato	Athenian philosopher	428 – 347 BCE	Πλάτων
Aristotle	Athenian philosopher	384 – 322 BCE	Αριστοτέλης

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