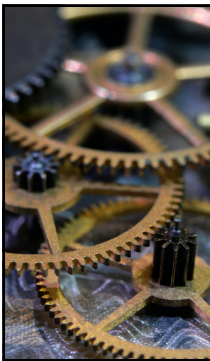




Introduction and Evidence

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #1

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 19
Position Paper Proposal
- Monday, November 9
Birds Essay
- Sunday, September 6
Responses for Week 1 Due

2

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/DD/DD_ag/



3

Who am I?

Mark Wilson
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Dept. of History

- mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu
- 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

5

The Aegean world

6



How are we connected to the ancient Greeks?

7



How are we connected to the Greeks?

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

8



9



10



11



12



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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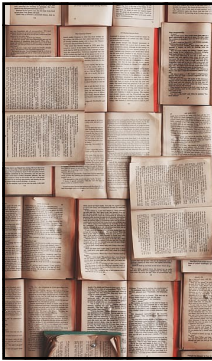
Aretē

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

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Books

The Textbook
A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society, and Culture, 5th Edition
by Sarah Pomeroy et al.
Oxford University Press, 2025. Paperback: ISBN 9780197783481

Birds
The Birds and Other Plays: The Knights, Peace, Wealth, the Assemblywomen
by Aristophanes, David Barrett, and Alan H. Sommerstein
Penguin Books, 2003. Paperback: ISBN 9780140449518

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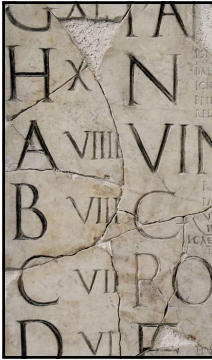


Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined from the following:

• Attendance, Responses, and Quizzes	20%
Each week there will be	
– attendance taken at class meetings,	5%
– a required online post in response to a source, and	5%
– a short, 5-minute in-class quiz.	10%
• Presentations	20%
– one on one of the assigned primary sources, and	10%
– one on one of the assigned secondary sources.	10%
A written version is due a week after your presentation.	
• Written Assignments	35%
– a 3-to-4 page essay on Aristophanes's <i>Birds</i> , and	10%
– a 6-to-8 page term paper using evidence to take a position on a research topic of your choice relating to gender in the ancient world.	25%
• Final Exam	25%

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Meetings and Reading Assignments

ORIGINS

1 Introduction and Evidence

Thursday, September 3

Before the meeting, read all of the following:

Before the meeting, read all of the following:

3 The Greek Dark Age

Thursday, September 17

Before the meeting, read all of the following:

- Ch. 3, "The Early Iron Age ca. 1200-750/100 BC?"

Before the meeting, read one of the following:

- Agamemnon's Death / Homer
- The Death of Menelaos / Homer
- Nausicaa and the Stranger / Homer
- Odysseus and the Sirens / Homer
- The Beginnings of Things / Hesiod

Agamemnon's Death / Homer	12
The Death of Menelaos / Homer	12
Nausicaa and the Stranger / Homer	12
Odysseus and the Sirens / Homer	12
The Beginnings of Things / Hesiod	12

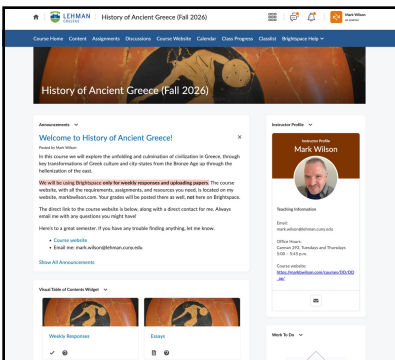
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Approaching the course

- 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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Brightspace

- Weekly Responses
- Uploading essays

Everything else is on the course website

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The course website
markbwilson.com/courses/DD/DD_ag/

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Questions about whatever

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website:
markbwilson.com

email:
mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu

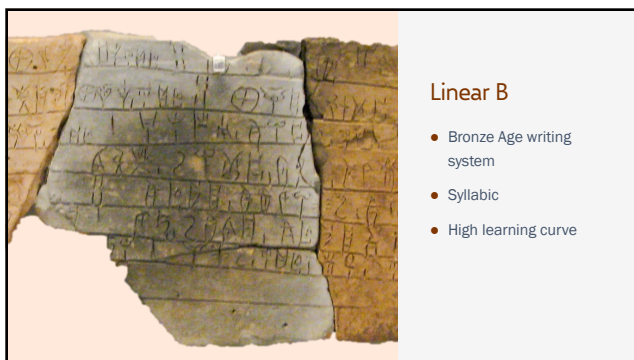
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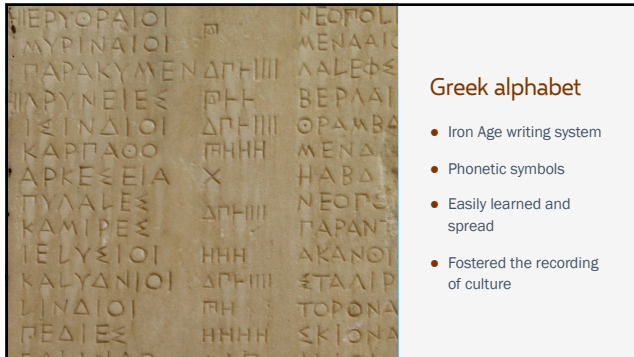
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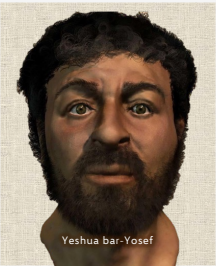
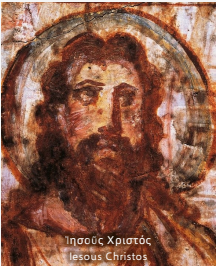
The Greek alphabet

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 Όυίλσον

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Greek Alphabet Affects History


➔


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Some Greek names

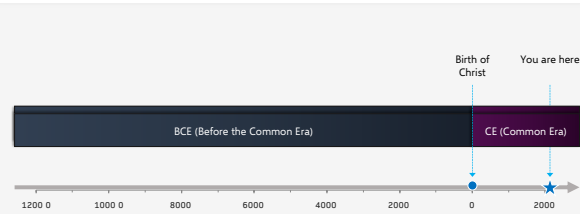
Homer	Greek epic poet	8th century BCE	Ὅμηρος
Hesiod	Greek poet	Early 7th century BCE	Ἡσίοδος
Sappho	Greek lyric poet	c. 620 – c. 570 BCE	Σαπφώ
Pindar	Theban lyric poet	522 – 443 BCE	Πίνδαρος
Herodotus	Greek historian	484 – 425 BCE	Ἡρόδοτος
Thucydides	Athenian general and historian	c. 460 – c. 395 BCE	Θουκυδίδης
Aeschylus	Greek tragic playwright	c. 525 – c. 426 BCE	Αἰσχύλος
Euripides	Athenian tragic playwright	480 – 406 BCE	Εὐριπίδης
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	Ἀριστοτέλης

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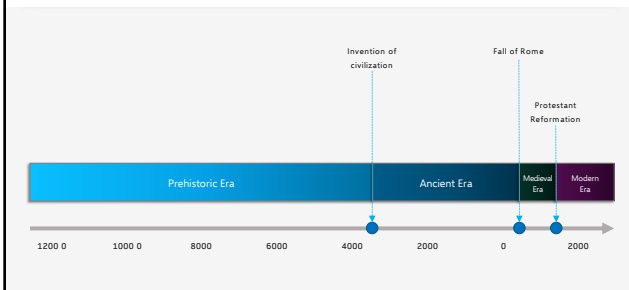
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The “Common Era” calendar

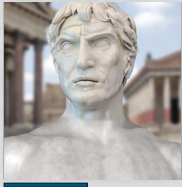


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Eras of (Mediterranean) history



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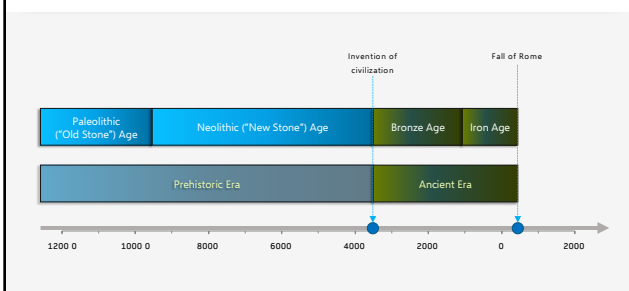


ancient era

a historical period from ~3000 BCE to ~500 CE, characterized by experimentation with systems of *community and empire*

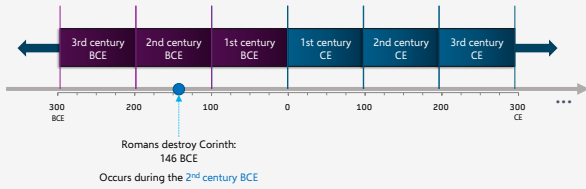
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Ages of technology



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Counting centuries



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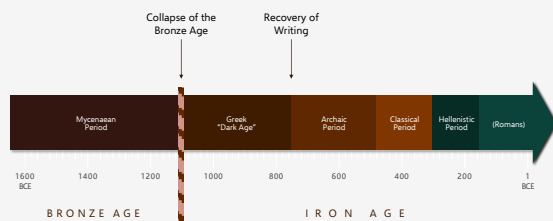
Periodization

- 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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Periods of Greek History



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