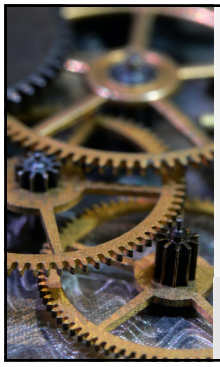


The Legacy of Alexander

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #20

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, November 16
  Clouds essay due
- Thursday, November 26
  No class meeting
- Monday, December 7
  Images essay due
- Sunday, November 15
  Responses for Week 11 Due

2

Spring 2027 courses in Ancient History



History of Ancient Rome

Foundation and development of the Roman state, including the rise and decline of the Roman Republic and the establishment and fall of the Empire, with emphasis on its political, economic, social, and cultural achievements.

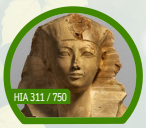
HYBRID Prof. Wilson 3 credits W/Res Int



Classical Myth and Society

A comparison of the origins and development of classical mythology and heroic legend as religious beliefs, their relation to other mythologies, and their adaptation in literature and art from Hesiod and Homer through the present.

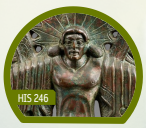
HYBRID Prof. Marianetti 3 credits W/ Int



Women in Antiquity

Examination of the image, role, and status of women in Ancient Greek, Ancient Roman, and other societies as seen through the important literary works of antiquity.

HYBRID Prof. Wilson 3 credits W/Res Int



Civilizations of the Ancient World

A survey of the Mediterranean world, tracing the development of civilization from Mesopotamia and Egypt to ancient Greek City States and the dominion of Rome.

HYBRID Prof. Wilson 3 credits

3

Four things today

- The end of *Clouds*
- Alexander
- Alexander's conquests
- The Hellenistic east

4

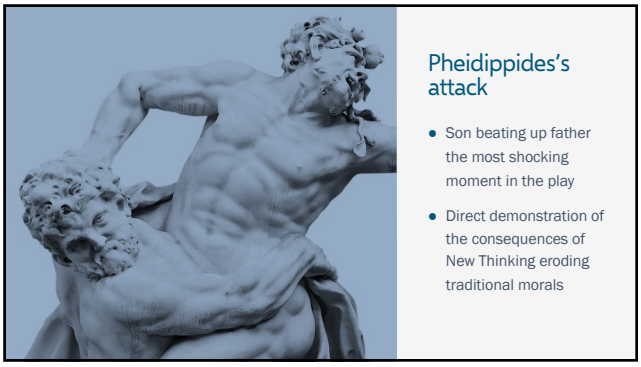
Questions about whatever



5

Clouds

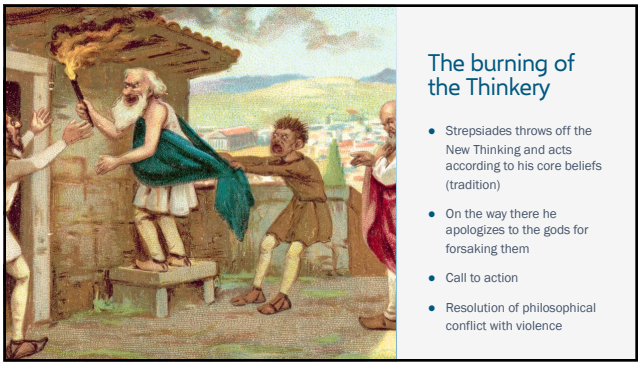
6



Pheidippides's attack

- Son beating up father the most shocking moment in the play
- Direct demonstration of the consequences of New Thinking eroding traditional morals

7



The burning of the Thinkery

- Strepsiades throws off the New Thinking and acts according to his core beliefs (tradition)
- On the way there he apologizes to the gods for forsaking them
- Call to action
- Resolution of philosophical conflict with violence

8



What is *Clouds* about?

9

Nomos vs. physis

- How do we know what is just?
  - Athenians believe in democracy = the people bearing the burden of society
  - This requires a protocol for deciding what is just and unjust, instead of being told by the gods (religion) and ancestors (tradition)
- Nomos (convention) = the real Sophists
  - Is morality merely arbitrarily dictated by society?
  - Protagoras: "Man is the measure of all things"
  - The truth is what people will believe; sophists taught the ability to argue regardless of morality
  - Effective speeches—not just true speeches—can change what people believe



the fake "Socrates" and the Sophists

- Physis (nature)
  - Is there a higher sanction to be found in something else, like the natural world?
  - A search for ways to identify natural laws of morality and justice—universal truths
  - Truth is inherent in nature – cannot be changed regardless of human or divine will



the real Socrates

- Aristophanes believed in gods and tradition, and so rejected both
  - Used Clouds to try to destroy both relativists like the sophists and universalists like Socrates

10

Alexander

11



12



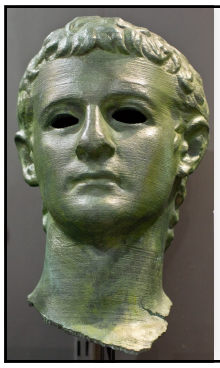
13



14



15



Alexander's youth

- Philip had multiple wives and sons
  - Choosing Alexander worsened rivalries between mothers and tribes
- Educated to think and strategize as a Greek
  - Trained by Aristotle
- Philip intended a transition and an evolution
  - from barbarian king (himself) to the ideal king (Alexander)
  - From Macedon's barbarian past to its evolved and civilized future

16

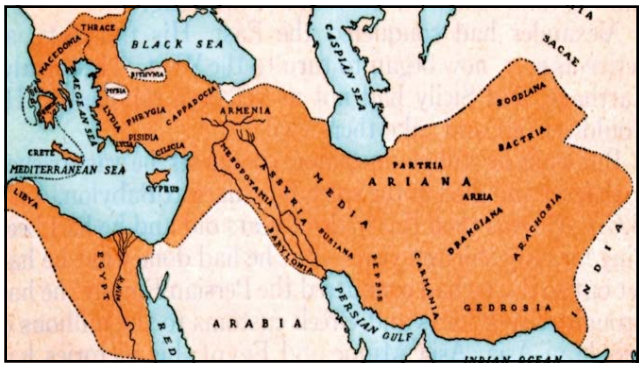
Alexander as a Greek



17

Alexander's conquests

18



19



20



Cultural synthesis

- Destroys Persepolis and makes Babylon his capital as "King of Asia"
- Sets about trying to merge Greek, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian achievements and culture
- Alexander's goal is to create the ultimate civilization

21



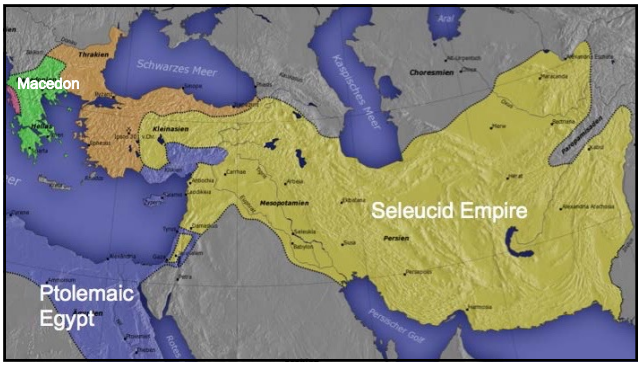
"To the strongest"

- Dies unexpectedly of illness at 32 years old
- Planned heir not yet born
- Supposedly answered "to the strongest"
- Death launches years of wars between Alexander's generals to control parts of his empire

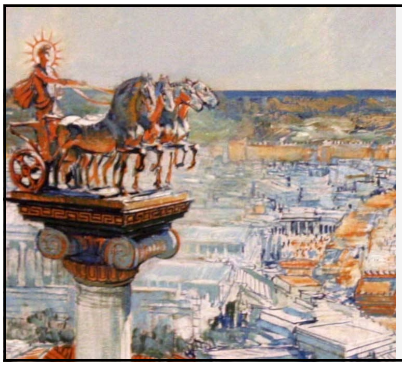
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The Hellenistic East

23



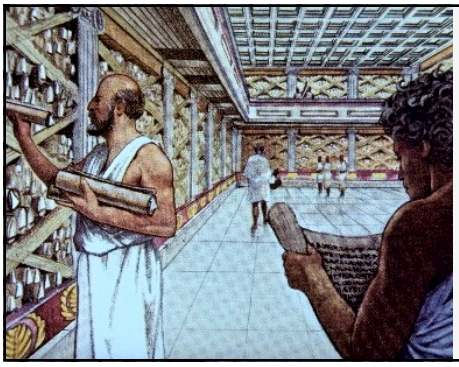
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The Cosmopolis

- No longer limited by the horizon
- Sense of connectedness between great cities of different Hellenistic lands
- Drive to share and develop ideas and innovations

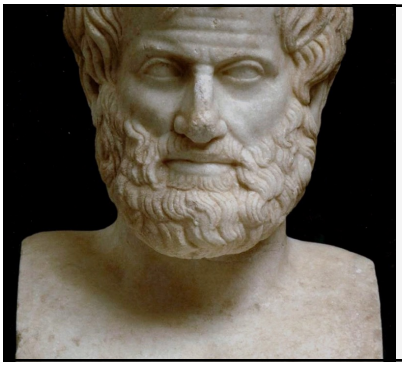
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Alexandria

- Not just storage of information
- Catalyzing new ideas through discussion and diversity

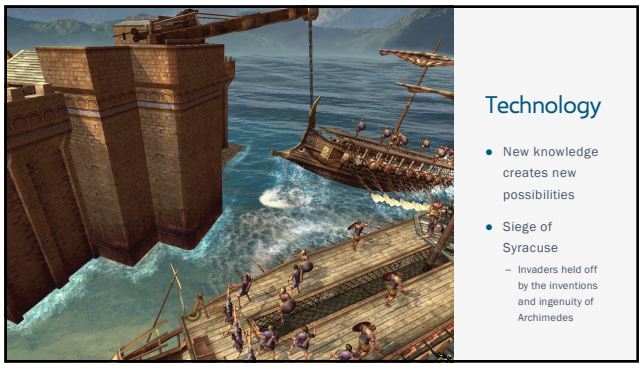
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Hellenistic philosophy

- Aristotle
  - Applied reasoning, systematic
  - Taught Alexander
- Stoicism
  - Austerity, valor, virtuous deeds
  - Greatly influential on Romans

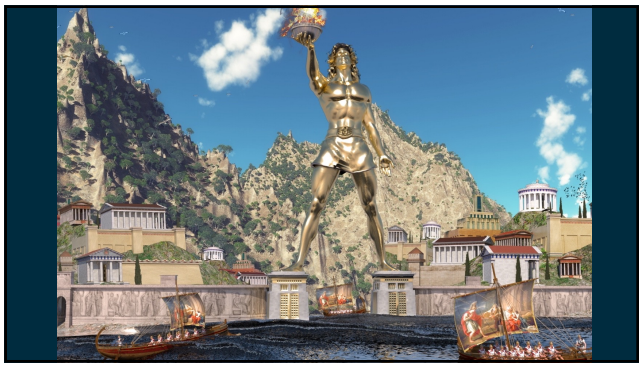
27



Technology

- New knowledge creates new possibilities
- Siege of Syracuse
  - Invaders held off by the inventions and ingenuity of Archimedes

28



29



30



31



32



33