

# Classics of the Ancient World

Fall 2024

*HUMN 2013/4013*

*TR 12:30-1:50, PY 205*

Professor Kirsten Lodge  
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**Office:** 217 Bea Wood Hall, 940-397-4363

**Office Hours:** MWF 10-11, TR 11-12, and by appointment

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to ancient cultures, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the Byzantine Empire. We will look at all aspects of culture, including history, art, literature, philosophy, and music. Students will thus acquire an understanding of these cultures and how they developed during this time period; encounter different ways of viewing the world; learn to analyze, interpret, and think critically about diverse works of art, literature, and music; experiment with interdisciplinary approaches to the material; and learn to identify, describe, and discuss major religions, philosophies, works of art, and historical events. Participation in class discussion and activities will help them to express themselves and support their ideas at an advanced level. In exploring these different cultures, students will hopefully wish to continue to learn about them after the end of the semester, and even visit some of the countries we will discuss.

**Aug. 27** Introduction

## ***Chapter 1: Prehistoric, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian Civilizations***

**29** Earliest Cultures: Paleolithic Period, Neolithic Period

*Reading:* 4-8

**Sept. 3** Mesopotamia: Sumer, Akkad, Babylon

*Reading:* 8-12, 38-42 (*The Epic of Gilgamesh*)

**4013 Presentation Proposal Due**

**5** Assyria, Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, Persia

*Reading:* 12-17, 42-43 (*Enheduanna*)

**10** Civilization of the Nile: Hieroglyphics, Religious Beliefs; Old Kingdom:  
Architecture

*Reading:* 17-22

**12** The Book of the Dead, Sculpture, Relief Sculpture and Painting; Middle  
Kingdom

*Reading:* 22-25, 43-44 (*The Egyptian Book of the Dead*)

**17** New Kingdom: Architecture, Sculpture, Relief Sculpture and Painting

*Reading:* 25-31, 44-45 (*Egyptian love poetry*)

**19** Akhenaten and Tutankhamen, Egyptian Music, Literature  
*Reading: 31-36, 45-47 (“Hymn to the Sun”)*

### ***Chapter 2: Aegean Culture and Early Greece***

**24** Aegean Cultures: Cycladic Culture, Minoan Culture, Mycenaean Culture  
*Reading: 50-57, 68-69 (Hesiod, *Works and Days*)*

**26** Rise of Ancient Greece: Pantheon of Greek Gods, The Geometric Period  
*Reading: 57-62, 69-72 (Homer, *The Iliad*)*

**Oct. 1** Homer

*Reading: 73-76 (*The Odyssey*)*

**3** Sappho and the Lyric Poem; The Archaic Period

*Reading: 62-67, 76-77 (Sappho, Archaic Lyric Poetry, and Herakleitos)*

### ***Chapter 3: Classical and Hellenistic Greece***

**8** Classical Greece: From Archaic to Classical  
*Reading: 80-82, 106-8 (Herodotus)*

**10** Golden Age of Athens: Architecture, Sculpture, Vase Painting  
*Reading: 82-89, 108-10 (Thucydides)*

**15** Emergence of Drama  
*Reading: 89-92, 113-17 (Euripides)*

**17** *Reading: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King**

**22** Philosophy, Music and Greek Society  
*Reading: 92-98, 117-22 (Plato)*

**24** Hellenistic Greece: Architecture and Sculpture, Philosophy  
*Reading: 98-104, 122-25 (Aristotle)*

### ***Chapter 4: Roman Civilization***

**29** The Roman Republic: Art, Literature  
*Reading: 132-36, 162-63 (Catullus)*

**31** Midterm (Chapters 1-3)

**Nov. 5** The Roman Empire: Music, Architecture, Sculpture, Literature  
*Reading: 136-43, 149-51, 163-65 (Ovid, Horace, and Juvenal)*

**4013** Paper Proposal Due

7 Painting, Philosophy, Roman Historians  
*Reading:* 144-48, 165-69 (Marcus Aurelius and Suetonius)

12 Virgil  
*Reading:* 148-49, 152-62 (*The Aeneid*)

### ***Chapter 5: Judaism, Early Christianity, and Byzantine Civilization***

14 Judaism: History and Religion, The Bible as Literature  
*Reading:* 172-78, 200-1 (Genesis)

19 Early Christianity: Jesus and His Message, Christian Antecedents, Early Christian History and Art  
*Reading:* 178-83, 202-5 (Job)

21 The New Testament as Literature, Early Christian Music  
*Reading:* 183-86, 206-9 (The Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke)

**25 Last Day for 'W'**

**27 Thanksgiving Break**

Dec. 3 Philosophy  
*Reading:* 186-88, 209-13 (Augustine)  
**4013 Paper Draft Due**

5 Byzantine Civilization: Byzantine Art, Golden Age of Constantinople  
*Reading:* 188-98

**12 Final Exam, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**4013 Paper Due, 10:30 a.m.**

### **Course Requirements**

**1. Participation (2013, 10%; 4013, 5%).** It is essential that you participate in class discussion and activities to help you understand and master all of the material we cover. Please note that participation is different from attendance. Participation means talking in class.

**2. In-Class Writing (2013, 35%; 4013, 25%):** At the beginning of most classes, I will give you a brief question or a quotation from the text to respond to. You do not have to write complete sentences—bullet points are fine, as long as I can understand what you mean. Spelling and grammar will not count. Your grade for these reflections will be check plus, check, check minus, or X, which will be entered in D2L as A+, B+, C+, or zero. If you have an excused absence for the day, you may make up the in-class writing in my office.

- 3. Midterm (2013, 25%; 4013, 20%).** The midterm will be on chapters 1-3.
- 4. Final Exam (2013, 30%; 4013, 25%).** The final exam will consist of a short critical thinking essay on the last two chapters and a longer essay that will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the course material as a whole.
- 5. Research-Based Presentation (4013, 10%).** Upper-level students must choose a topic for a 10-15 minute presentation. The topic should complement the textbook, not repeat what it says. You will be expected to consult at least three scholarly sources, and give me an outline of the presentation and a bibliography in MLA or APA style on the day of your presentation. See the presentation rubric on D2L for guidance. You should look through the textbook and submit a topic proposal to me by **Sept. 3**, and we will set a date for your presentation.
- 6. Research Paper (4013, 15%).** Upper-level students will write a 5-6 page research paper on a topic of their choice, but not on the same topic as their presentation. The paper must be in MLA or APA format, including in-text citations. If you use a cover sheet, it will not count as an additional page. You should watch the video on D2L on writing a research paper. Please submit a brief paper proposal by **Nov. 5** and a draft with a bibliography of at least three scholarly sources by **Dec. 3**. You must come to see me in my office before you start the draft. The paper is due on **Dec. 12**. If it is late, your grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., A > A-) per day.
- 7. Attendance.** You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. You are permitted three unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. However, if you believe you have a good reason for missing class but are unable to get a written excuse, please let me know, and if your excuse is valid, I will excuse you.

Your final grade will be lowered by one point for each unexcused absence in excess of the two permitted unexcused absences. In addition, three “lates” will add up to one unexcused absence unless you provide me with a valid reason for lateness.

Any student with more than seven absences for any reason may be dropped from the course.

### **Course Policies**

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize on any assignments or papers, or engage in any other form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook, you will get a zero on the assignment. Other forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor’s notes, and lying to the professor.

**AI Use:** I understand that AI can be a useful tool, and I am not against AI as such; however, the goal of the assignments in this course is to teach you critical thinking skills, and therefore the use of AI in this course will be considered plagiarism.

Note that there is no uniform policy on AI use at MSU. Make sure that you understand the policy for each course you are taking.

**Midterm Progress Report:** I will submit a Midterm Progress Report to your WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on your transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. Students earning below a C at the midway point will receive an email from Tutoring and Academic Support.

**Cellphones:** You may not use your cellphone in class except to consult the texts we are discussing, or to google a question we cannot answer.

**Food:** In accordance with the building policy, you may bring only bottled water to class.

**Computers:** You may not use a computer in class except to consult the text, or for another justifiable reason. If this is the case, please inform me beforehand.

**Attention:** Please be alert and do not lay your head down on your desk during class, or I may mark you late or absent without warning.

**Class Dismissal:** Please do not start to pack up your things or leave until I have dismissed the class. If you believe I have gone over the allotted time, please raise your hand and let me know.

**Email Communication:** The only way I can communicate with you outside of class is through D2L email. You should set up D2L so that D2L emails are delivered to your email account. You are responsible for checking your email or D2L daily for any reminders, clarifications, or other communications from me.

**Safe Zone Statement:** This classroom is a “safe zone” in which all students will be treated and will treat one another equally, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is encouraged.

### **Other Important Information**

**Office Hours:** My office hours are given above, and I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have, whether they are about the texts we are reading, assignments, exams, absences, or anything else—or you may just come by to talk. If you can't make my office hours, we can make an appointment.

**Tutoring Support:** Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please see their schedule for more information about times and offerings.

**Academic Accommodations:** If you require special accommodations, please contact Disability Support Service, 168 Clark Student Center, 397-4140, at the beginning of the

semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Arrangements cannot be applied retroactively.

**Research and Creative Activity Opportunities at MSU:** Enhancing Undergraduate Research Endeavors and Creative Activities (EURECA) is a program that provides opportunities for undergraduates to engage in high-quality research and creative activities with faculty. EURECA provides incentives and funding through a system that supports faculty and students in a cooperative research process. Information and resources are available from [The Office of Undergraduate Research](#).