



CLCS6014

Court and Society (Module Syllabus)

Module Code: CLCS6014
Credit points: 20
Pre-requisites/restrictions: None
Taught: Semester 2
Lecturer: Dr Kyle Erickson

AIM(S)

- To develop students' knowledge of ancient courts in their political, social, and cultural context.
- To provide students with the tools to critically evaluate literary, documentary, and archaeological evidence for ancient courts.
- To provide students with an understanding of the theories and methodologies used for understanding court societies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate:

- a sound knowledge of the workings of at least one ancient court;
- the ability to display an understanding and critical appreciation of the key themes of the diverse scholarly approaches to ancient courts;
- an understanding of literary, socio-cultural, and historical contexts, and how these affect our interpretation of the ancient courts;
- the ability to present written work in a manner appropriate for a relevant/professional audience.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The module discusses ancient courts concentrating on a specific period or interlinked periods, such as Persian, Hellenistic, or imperial Rome. The module explores the changes and subsequent evolution of court life and the interaction between different members of the societal elite.

OFFICE HOURS/HOW TO CONTACT ME

Please feel free to come and see me if you would like to discuss any problems you may have concerning this module. My office hours are by appointment, if I am not in my office, please contact me by email to set up an appointment (k.erickson@uwtss.ac.uk). If you come to see me at another time and I am not in because of teaching or other commitments, please email me (k.erickson@uwtss.ac.uk). You can also ask questions (not confidential) in the discussion board available in the Moodle space for this course.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

This 20-credit module has 30 contact hours. Attendance is compulsory for ALL lectures, workshops and seminars. If you cannot make a class because of illness or other good reason, you need to inform the Faculty Office (facultyoffice@uwtss.ac.uk) by email.

Lectures will take place on Thursday 09.00-12.00 in Tucker 02.

This module will involve elements of 'role-play' and significant interaction. There will be some lectures, but the majority of class hours will be interaction. As a result there is no indicative module schedule.

The aim of this module is to gain an understanding of the process through which a Hellenistic Royal court would have functioned.

This year we will be starting in the year 225 B.C.

Each hour of class will be 1 year (no time elapses between classes).

You will be put in groups of 3 or 4

- Royal Courts:
 - Pergamon (3 family members)
 - Seleukid (1 family member, 2 advisors) (advisors can be family but don't have to be)
 - Ptolemaic (4 members – two royal family, two advisors)
- Regions (3)
 - Babylon *Seleukid
 - Media *Seleukid
 - Asia Minor *Seleukid
 - Seleukis *Seleukid
 - Koele-Syria and Phoenicia *Ptolemaic
 - Alexandria *Ptolemaic
 - Cilicia *Ptolemaic

Courts and Society Coursework

Assessment Component 1 – 20% - DUE 13/02/2018

(Individual) 1000 words

Create a character dossier to fit into at one of the courts studied, including background, historical context, roles and responsibilities at court and within group.

Example:

Create a character dossier for an annual magistrate in Magnesia on the Menander who is also serving as an ambassador to the Seleukid court.

Assessment Component 2 – 30% DUE 27/02/2018

(Group) Equivalent of 1500 words per group member

Prepare a resources model for the group's area based on historical data

Presentation of/Response to Petitions to the King and Royal Court

Assessment Component 3 – 50% DUE 01/05/2018

2500 word journal of proposed actions to be taken during the course of the model based on historical precedent and an analysis of the outcome of those actions.

Example (of one action)

Attempted assassination of king – based on the assassination of Philip II of Macedon.

General assessment information: coursework

Coursework submission for this module will be through Moodle. Please follow the instructions on the module's Moodle page for how to submit your work. The deadline for submission will be at 23.59 BST on the day given above. You will also need to retain a second electronic copy of your work to be submitted, if deemed appropriate, to the module convenor.

Word count

Please be aware that if you go significantly over or under the word limit (i.e. more than 10%), you may be penalised.

REMEMBER that the word count includes everything apart from the bibliography, titles or captions. You must provide the word count clearly at the end of the essay

Welsh First language

If your first language is Welsh and you would like to submit any assessed coursework in Welsh, please see the School Office as soon as possible to make arrangements for this.

Special needs / requirements

If you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia, visual impairment) that need to be taken into account for the teaching of this module, please make sure that our level 6 Student Support Liaison Officer, Dr Alexander Scott (Alexander.Scott@uwtsd.ac.uk), is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Your coursework will be returned electronically through Moodle. Detailed feedback is given through the turnitin but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do come and see me.

Some extra assignment/essay guidelines

Help for the writing of coursework is available in the UWTSd Reference Guides, as well as through the Student Support Moodle page. You are advised to read the relevant sections carefully.

Marks will be deducted if your piece of coursework is not presented properly (e.g. 1.5 spacing, font 12 is needed). Note that all coursework needs to be word-processed; hand-written work will not be accepted. Assessment criteria can be found on moodle.

***** You need to watch plagiarism whenever you use secondary literature (ALL suspect coursework will be submitted to a Turn-It-In analysis).** Please consult the Reference Guide for advice on how to reference secondary literature.

In case of problems....

Do come and see me during office hours if you have any problems with the writing or planning of your piece of coursework. You are also welcome to see your personal tutor for advice.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please see Bibliography on Moodle

Essential

Elias, N. 1983. *The Court Society*. Oxford.

Spawforth, A.J.S. (ed). 2007. *The Court and Court Society in Ancient Monarchies*.
Cambridge.

Recommended

Bilde, P. et. al. (eds.) 1996. *Aspects of Hellenistic kingship*. Aarhus

Braund, David. 1984. *Rome and the friendly king: the character of the client kingship*.
London.

Canepa, Matthew P. 2009. *The two eyes of the Earth art and ritual of kingship between Rome and Sasanian Iran*. Berkeley.

Griffiths, Frederick T. 1979. *Theocritus at court*. Leiden.

Hooke, S. H. 1958. *Myth, ritual, and kingship; essays on the theory and practice of kingship in the ancient Near East and in Israel*. Oxford.

McKechnie, Paul, and Philippe Guillaume. 2008. *Ptolemy II Philadelphus and his world*. Leiden.

Ogden, Daniel. 1999. *Polygamy, prostitutes and death: the Hellenistic dynasties*. London.

Background

Beck, Hans. 2013. *A Companion to Ancient Greek Government*. Chichester.