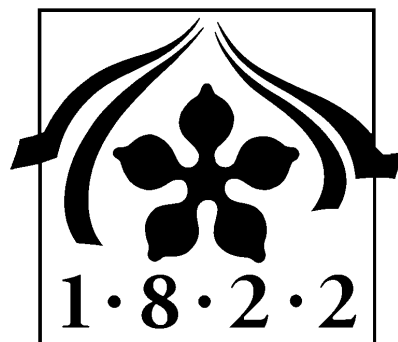


DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

**UNIVERSITY OF WALES
LAMPETER**



MAH1820

**BETWEEN NARRATIVE
AND INTERPRETATION:
WRITING HISTORY
IN THE ANCIENT WORLD**

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Credit points: 20

Tutors: Errietta Bissa, Federico Santangelo

Syllabus:

The module studies the historiography and historiographical tradition in the Greek and Roman worlds from the sixth century BC to the third century AD. The focus will be mainly on the evolution of history as a discipline and a tradition first in the Greek and in the Roman world. The module will concentrate on the main extant and fragmentary historians of the period aiming at analyzing and discussing the main characteristics of their method and works. Our knowledge of Greek and Roman history depends to a large extent on the information provided by the Greco-Roman historians; thus, understanding the motives and aims of these historians is paramount in expanding our knowledge of Greco-Roman antiquity. Further, the module will explore the connections and influences between Greco-Roman historiography and the primary philosophical movements of the period, mainly the sophistic movement and Stoicism.

Module aims

Learning outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate a broad and analytical understanding of Greek and Roman historiography.
- Be able to discuss in depth the methods, motives and aims of the main extant and fragmentary historians of classical antiquity.
- Understand and discuss major issues of historiographical methodology and modern scholarship on the subject.

MAH1820 Between Narrative and Interpretation
Module Syllabus

- Demonstrate the ability to construct an independent and methodologically informed argument, based on independent research, synthesizing material relevant to the module.

Transferable and other skills involved:

- Sophisticated writing skills
- Independent research skills
- Skills of extended oral presentation

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you are having any problems or if you are unsure about anything concerning this course, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can phone us (EB: 01570 424896; FS: 01570 424787) or e-mail us (e.bissa@lamp.ac.uk ; f.santangelo@lamp.ac.uk). During term time we have set contact hours and should be in our offices during those hours. If you come to see us or try to call me at another time and we are not in, please leave a message with our departmental administrator, Siân Davies, and I shall get back to you as soon as possible (classics@lamp.ac.uk ; 01570 424723). You can send work to us either as an e-mail attachment or by ordinary mail (Department of Classics, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7ED, Wales), although you must submit your final essay by post if you are not a residential student.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

This 20-credit module has 10 units. You should aim to do approximately one unit per week.

- 1. Unit 1:** Before Herodotos
- 2. Unit 2:** Herodotos
- 3. Unit 3:** Thucydides
- 4. Unit 4:** The Historians of the Fourth century
- 5. Unit 5:** Universal and Local History
- 6. Unit 6:** Polybius
- 7. Unit 7:** Julius Caesar
- 8. Unit 8:** Sallust
- 9. Unit 9:** Livy
- 10. Unit 10:** Tacitus

BOOKS

Access to good translations of the authors discussed in this module is essential: the passages quoted in the module syllabus are meant as a starting point. All the texts dealt with in this module are available in translation online, either on Perseus or on Lacus Curtius – sometimes on both sites. Most good libraries will also have a set of the Loeb editions of these authors. It is possible to buy copies, but the Loeb volumes are usually quite expensive. You may find cheaper editions of Herodotus, Thucydides, Polybius, Caesar, Sallust, Livy and Tacitus in the Penguin series.

There is no single book which covers all the material dealt with in this course, but the following may be especially useful:

- Momigliano, A. (1977, Oxford) *Essays in Greek and Roman Historiography*
- Errietta Bissa
Federico Santangelo
Department of Classics
University of Wales Lampeter

MAH1820 Between Narrative and Interpretation
Module Syllabus

- Hornblower, S. (ed., Oxford 1994), *Greek Historiography*
- Marincola, J. (2001, Oxford) *Greek Historians*
- Kraus, C. S. – Woodman, A. J. (Oxford, 1997), *Latin Historians*
- Momigliano, A. (Cambridge, Mass. 1971), *The Development of Greek Biography*

The reading material suggested in the module syllabus is usually available online, either through JSTOR or Net Library. The texts that are not may be obtained from the UWL Library or from the relevant module tutor.

The study of historiography is deeply related to the study of history. You cannot appreciate the importance of an author's contribution to the understanding of any period unless you are familiar with the main developments of that very period. For this reason, you should make sure that you have a reasonably good coverage of the events that the authors discussed in this module dealt with. The following books may provide you the information you need:

Osborne, R. (London 1996), *Greece in the Making 1200-479 B.C.*

Hornblower, S. (London 2002³) *The Greek World 479-323 B.C.*

Walbank, F. W. (Cambridge, Mass. 1993²) *The Hellenistic World*

Scullard, H (London 1982⁵) *From the Gracchi to Nero. A History of Rome from 133 BC to AD 68*

Welles, C. M. (London 1992) *The Roman Empire*

PROGRESS

At the end of each unit there is a selection of short (non-assessed) assignments. Distance students are required to complete four of these short assignments: two for units 1-5, and two for units 6-10. This will enable us to monitor your progress closely and give you regular feedback on your studies for this module. Further details about the short assignments can be found in the Department's Postgraduate Handbook.

Errietta Bissa

v

Federico Santangelo

Department of Classics

University of Wales Lampeter

ESSAY

Assessment is by one 5,000-word essay on a subject related to the content of the module and chosen by you, but in consultation with at least one of the module tutors (according to the topic). **You should not start your essay for this module until you have completed all four short assignments.** Further details about essays and essay submission can be found in the department's Postgraduate Handbook.

In your essay you will need to show *detailed* knowledge of *both* primary sources *and* modern scholarship. Essays *must* be edited in accordance with the conventions set out in the Methodology module and Postgraduate Handbook.

If you are unsure about something in relation to your essay, please contact us to discuss it and do please feel free to contact us if anything is at all unclear.