

MODULE SYLLABUS

Sparta: An Extraordinary City

CLAH5003

Module Code: CLAH5003
Credit points:
Pre-requisites/restrictions:
Taught: Semester 2
Lecturer: Dr Kyle Erickson

GENERAL INFORMATION

The module discusses Spartan history and society concentrating on important events, such as the creation of the *rhētra* or the victory in the Peloponnesian War, that had a clear influence on the evolution of this extraordinary polis. Sparta was polis different from the norm with a unique social and political development and the module examines the possible reasons as well as the consequences of Sparta's uniqueness for the history of the Greek world, either archaic and classical or Hellenistic and Roman. Further, the module explores the Spartan mirage and its influence in later and modern perceptions of Sparta.

AIM(S)

- To enable students to interpret and analyse ancient Sparta and the source material related to it.
- To enable students to understand and analyse modern scholarly debates on ancient Sparta

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module all students should be able to:

- demonstrate a secure understanding and knowledge of the main aspects of Spartan history
- evaluate and analyse the ancient sources and evidence on Sparta as a polis
- evaluate critically the main debated issues regarding Spartan history, politics and society
- present written and oral work, individually and as part of a group, in a manner appropriate for a relevant/professional audience

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. Try, if at all possible, to come during my office hours. My office hours are Monday 15.00-16.00, Tuesday 13.30-14.30 and Thursday 15.30-16.30. 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@tsd.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, inclusive of 4 seminars and 2 revision classes. 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 me (k.erickson@tsd.ac.uk) and your personal tutor about this.

Lectures and workshops take place on Monday 12.15 Tucker Theatre; Monday 16.15 Tucker Theatre; Tuesday 15.15 LR 7.

Course Outline:

Number	Title
1	Introduction (lecture)
2	Geography (lecture)
3	Archaic Sparta (lecture)
4	The Great Rhetra (workshop)
5	Women (lecture)
6	Spartan Expansion (lecture)
7	Constitution (lecture)
8	Persian Wars (lecture)
9	Helots (lecture)
10	Pentekontaetia I (lecture)
11	Pentekontaetia II (lecture)
12	Brasidas (lecture)
13	Persia (lecture)
14	Lysander (lecture)
15	Agésilas (Lecture)
16	Oligarchy (lecture)
17	Leuctra (lecture)
18	Oliganthropia (lecture)
19	End of Classical Sparta (lecture)
20	Hellenistic Sparta (lecture)
21	Roman Sparta (lecture)
22	Sparta Remembered I (lecture)
23	Sparta Remembered II (workshop)
24	Sparta Remembered III (workshop)
25	Revision
26	Revision

Seminars

You will need to sign-up for a seminar group in the sign-up sheets during the first lecture for this course/on the student notice board/on moodle. If you have not done this, please contact me (k.erickson@tsd.ac.uk) as soon as possible, so that you can be allocated to a seminar group.

There are 3 seminar groups:

Group	Day	Time	Place
Group 1	Tuesday	9.15	LR 18
Group 2	Thursday	10.15	LR 8
Group 3	Thursday	13.15	LR 18

Preparation material for the seminars will be available on the Moodle space for this course in the week preceding each seminar.

Seminar	Topic	Week
Seminar 1	Alcman and Spartan Women	4
Seminar 2	Spartan Religion	6
Seminar 3	Xenophon's <i>Agesilaus</i>	8
Seminar 4	Sparta as idealised state	10

ASSESSMENT

Course Work:

1 – A 2,000-word review of a scholarly debate: 30%

For example: Write a 2,000-word review of one of the following scholarly debates. When discussing a debate, you should always make certain that you have read and engaged with the views of scholars from all sides of a debate.

2 - A group wiki (3-4 students 1,500 words per student): 30%

Sample presentation subject: Were helots slaves?

3 – A 500-word reflective report on the individual's role in the group wiki: 10%

Examination: A take-home examination (2,000 words) 30%

Description

Your exam will take place during the May examination period. You will get your examination paper in the morning with a number of questions per level. You then have to write a 2,000 word essay on one of the questions. The essay should be typed, referenced and contain a bibliography. The essay will need to be handed in by the end of the day. More information on the practicalities of the examination will be communicated to you nearer the examination period.

Aims

The aim of the take-home exam is to simulate a situation where exacting work needs to be produced within the space of one working day. A traditional examination can no longer simulate the pressure of the modern work-place, since an employer now has access to data and information and no longer has to rely exclusively or primarily on memory. The take-home exam seeks to simulate the circumstances of producing a report or project evaluation in the pressed situation but incorporating the modern employee's ability to access information widely.

The take-home exam tests:

- the student's ability to work under pressure

- the student's knowledge of the subject
- the student's preparation and reading
- the student's ability to write well within specific time limits
- the student's ability to present a piece of work appropriately within specific time limits

Different exam preparation

The take-home exam needs different preparation and revision from a traditional exam. Where the traditional exam preparation focuses on revising lecture notes and memorising facts and ideas, the take-home exam is absolutely dependent on long-term preparation. You will need to read widely during the term the course runs and keep good notes of that reading. Revision will consist of revising the lecture notes but most importantly in reading through the notes of prior reading.

Course work

Coursework 1: Review of scholarly debate

To be submitted by Tuesday, 22nd February 3 PM; returned by five weeks from submission.

You should choose ONE of the following topics and engage with scholarly debate about the topic in an essay of 2,000 **words** (worth 30% of your final mark).

EITHER

1] The Spartan Rhetra

OR

2] Spartan use of money

OR

3] What were the *perioikoi*?

OR

4] The relationship between Sparta and tyranny before the Peloponnesian War.

Coursework 2: Group wiki

To be submitted by Tuesday, 22nd March 3PM; returned by five weeks from submission.

The Wiki

What is a wiki?

A wiki is a website or database developed collaboratively by a community of users, allowing any user to add and edit content.

You will write and design a wiki (in the Moodle space for this course) of 6000 words on one of the following subjects. You should each write 1500 words. Your mark will be contingent on both the quality of your work but also on your individual contribution.

Wiki subjects

You should choose ONE of the following topics for your group wiki. You should each write 1500 words to make up a total of 6000 words for the wiki as a whole. Your mark (worth 30% of your final mark) will be contingent on both the quality of your work but also on your individual contribution.

EITHER

1] Lycurgus: Legend or Lawgiver?

OR

2] Evaluate critically the role of the Peloponnesian League in the origins of the Peloponnesian war.

OR

3] Critically discuss the problems with the Spartan hegemony.

OR

4] Critically discuss how Spartan women differed from other Greek women.

Coursework 3: A 500-word reflective report on the individual's role in the group wiki
To be submitted by Tuesday, 3rd May 3PM; returned by five weeks from submission.

Write a 500-word reflective report on your role in the group wiki. The report should cover not only your experience of the group process, including any problems and how you overcame them, but also your research on the subject, your preparation, how you worked in the group environment and what conclusions your individual research brought about. Do remember that this is an academic piece of work, so you should provide examples, references, discussion and critical engagement with the primary and secondary sources. The reflective report is mostly concerned with the academic aspect of your work in the group wiki.

General assessment information: coursework

REMEMBER that the word count includes everything apart from the bibliography, titles or captions. You must provide the word count clearly on the cover sheet.

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 Welfare Officer, Dr Magdalena Öhrman (m.ohrman@tsd.ac.uk), is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Detailed feedback is given on the essay cover sheet but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do come and see me during one of my office hours (see times given above).

For more information on the return of your work, please consult the Submitting assignments website at <http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/lrc/servicesforstudents/submittingassignments/>

Extensions

Extensions for the submission of coursework will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; for more information please consult the Student Guide (or the *Academic Quality Handbook* 7.2.16). In order to request an extension, you will need to fill in an extension request form, available on the School Office website, and submit it in good time before the coursework submission deadline to the School's Welfare Officer.

Please note that if you are given an extension, there may be a corresponding delay to the return of your work.

Some extra assignment/essay guidelines

Help for the writing of coursework is available on the Study Skills section of the School of Classics website and in the TSD and School of Classics Reference Guides. You are advised to read the relevant sections carefully.

Marks will be deducted if your piece of coursework is not presented properly (e.g. double-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 in the Programme of Study Handbook and at the back of this Module Syllabus.

***** You need to watch plagiarism whenever you use secondary literature (please read carefully the plagiarism section in the Classics Programmes of Study Handbook – ALL suspect coursework will be submitted to a Turn-It-In analysis).** Please consult the Classics 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

A bibliography is provided in the Moodle space for this course. Please note that the books mentioned there are only recommendations. You should also make use of the relevant lecture notes and handouts and do some independent research.

Unless they are available in electronic format, all items for the reading list have been placed on library-only or short loan and are kept behind the library counter. Note that all these items can be reserved via the computerised catalogue – a very useful device that allows you to plan ahead with your reading for the essay.

Exam

The exam for this module will take place in the May examination period.

RECOMMENDED PURCHASES AND READING:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential

Cartledge, P. *Sparta and Lakonia: a regional history, 1300-362 BC*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979.

Recommended

Cartledge, P. *Hellenistic and Roman Sparta : a tale of two cities*. London: Routledge, 1989.

Forrest, W. G. *A history of Sparta, 950-192 B.C.* London: Hutchinson University Library, 1968.

Powell A. and Hodkinson S. (eds) *Sparta: beyond the mirage*. London: Classical Press of Wales and Duckworth, 2002.

Cartledge, P. *Spartan reflections*. London: Duckworth, 2001.

Fitzhardinge, L. F. *The Spartans*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1980.

Hodkinson S. and Powell A. (eds) *Sparta: new perspectives*. London: Duckworth, 1999.

Jones, A. H. M. *Sparta*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967.

Malkin, I. *Myth and territory in the Spartan Mediterranean*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Powell A. and Hodkinson S. *The Shadow of Sparta*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Powell A. *Classical Sparta: techniques behind her success*. London: Routledge, 1989.

Powell, A. *Athens and Sparta: constructing Greek political and social history from 478 B.C.* London: Routledge, 2001.

Rawson, E. *The Spartan tradition in European thought*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1969

Course Materials and Moodle

All information regarding this course, including lecture, workshop and seminar handouts, powerpoints, this module syllabus, the bibliography, assessment assignment details and lecture podcasts will be available in the Moodle space for this course. Further, the Moodle space for this

course will offer you a discussion board, where you can ask questions and discuss aspects of the course with your fellow students and me.

If you have trouble accessing any of this material or the Moodle space for this course in general, please contact as soon as possible the departmental Moodle co-ordinator, Dr. Errietta Bissa (e.bissa@lamp.ac.uk)