

MODULE SYLLABUS

Power and Culture in the Hellenistic East
CLAH7010

MODULE CODE:**TITLE:****Power and Culture in the Hellenistic East****DATE:****25/10/2011****MODULE AUTHOR:****Dr. Kyle Erickson****LEVEL:****7****CREDITS:****20****TEACHING METHODS:**

Seminars	10% [if taught on campus]
Directed Learning	90%
Directed Learning	100% [if taught at a distance]

JACS CODE:**V110**

AIM(S)

To enable students to

- critically discuss and analyse the major historical and cultural issues in the post-Classical period in the Near East and Asia Minor, extending from the time of Alexander until the death of Cleopatra VII;
- critically engage with a wide range of differing ancient sources, including literary texts, inscriptions, numismatics, and archaeological evidence as well as scholarly approaches to these types of evidence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- demonstrate a broad and in-depth understanding of the interaction between culture and power in the Hellenistic kingdoms of the Near East and Egypt;
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the interaction between source material and interpretation;
- work critically with a wide variety of evidence, and to use it in effective combination as a tool of historical analysis and reconstruction;
- demonstrate the ability to think autonomously and analytically on the basis of written and visual sources and secondary literature;
- construct an independent and methodologically informed argument, based on independent research, synthesizing material relevant to the module.

CONTENT

This module will focus on dynastic issues and on the interaction between cities, native populations and rulers of the Hellenistic East (the former Persian Empire) from the death of Alexander the Great until the absorption of the Ptolemaic kingdom by Rome. It uses both Greek and native source material (where the latter is available) to analyze the character of these varied interactions and their impacts on both sides. The history of the Hellenistic kingdoms, in the specific context of international relations with the populations dominated by the Hellenistic rulers, is one of both alienation and assimilation, of bigotry and acceptance, of rebellion and co-operation. The course

examines both the positive and negative aspects of that interaction between cultures, examining both culture clash and, ultimately, the benefits that mutual intercourse may have brought to both sides.

Residential students will discuss the module units in seminars.

Distance learners will be provided with introductory material for each unit, and will be asked to submit two pieces of formative written work for comment by the tutor.

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 Tuesday 13.30-15.30, Wednesday 12.30-13.30. If you come to see me at another time and I am not in because of teaching or other commitments, please email (k.erickson@tsd.ac.uk). You can also ask questions (not confidential) on the discussion board available in the Moodle space for this course.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

This 20-credit module has 20 contact hours, inclusive of 10 seminars. 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.

Seminar times for residential students are agreed with the group at the beginning of each semester.

For distance learners, completion of the following will satisfy the attendance requirement:

1. 2 x 500-word comments on the focus questions for any 2 units of your choice
2. 2 x 250-word replies to the comments of your peers.

You are required to submit the 500-word comments and 250-word replies on the Moodle forum for this purpose (entitled "Comments and Replies Forum").

ASSESSMENT

Course work

One 5000 word essay (100%)

The topic of the essay is chosen by the student in consultation with the module tutor but must be related to the content of the module.

For example:

Analyse and discuss the importance of the Frataraka coinage for understanding Seleucid Iran.

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 the module tutor. Further details about essays and essay submission can be found in the department's Postgraduate Handbook and the School Office Website.

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 me to discuss it and do please feel free to contact me if anything is at all unclear.

DUE:

General assessment information: coursework

Coursework submission for this module will be through Moodle.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

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

- 1. Unit 1:** Introduction and Early Hellenistic Chronology
- 2. Unit 2:** The Seleucids and Babylon
- 3. Unit 3:** The Seleucids and Iran
- 4. Unit 4:** The 3rd Syrian War
- 5. Unit 5:** Bactria and Parthia
- 6. Unit 6:** Antiochus III
- 7. Unit 7:** Ptolemies and Egypt
- 8. Unit 8:** Hellenistic Literature in the East
- 9. Unit 9:** Revolt of the Maccabees
- 10. Unit 10:** The end of the Hellenistic Period

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. Many of the texts dealt with in this module are available in translation online, either on Perseus or on Lacus Curtius – sometimes on both sites. Other relevant texts available online will be pointed out. Most good libraries will also have a set of the Loeb editions of many of these authors. We will also be dealing extensively with epigraphic and numismatic evidence. It is strongly suggested that you have regular access to:

Austin, M. M. 2006 (2nd ed). *The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest [sources in translation]*. Cambridge.

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

Erskine, A. ed. 2003. *Blackwell Companion to the Hellenistic World*. Oxford.

Bugh, G.R. 2006. *The Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World*, Cambridge.

Gutzwiller, K. 2007. *A Guide to Hellenistic literature*. Oxford.

Walbank, F. 1992. *The Hellenistic World (revised edition)*. Cambridge, Mass.

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

Word count

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

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 Support Liaison Officer, Dr Kyle Erickson (k.erickson@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

Your coursework will be returned electronically. 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).

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 pages 180-181). In order to request an extension, you will need to fill in an extension request form, available on the Faculty Office Moodle page, and submit it in good time before the coursework submission deadline to the co-ordinator of your programme of study.

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 in the TSD and School of Classics 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. 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 (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

Several bibliographies are provided in the Moodle space for this course. Please note that the books mentioned there are only recommendations and not all will be available through the TSD library. I have attempted to provide as many comprehensive bibliographies as possible, rather than limiting it to library resources. 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.

Essential

Erskine, A. ed. 2003. *Blackwell Companion to the Hellenistic World*. Oxford.

Ma, J. 2000. *Antiochus III and the Cities of Asia Minor*. Oxford.

Austin, M. M. 2006 (2nd ed). *The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest [sources in translation]*. Cambridge.

Recommended

Rostovtzeff, M.I. 1941. *Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic world*. Oxford.

Bugh, G.R. 2006. *The Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World*, Cambridge.

Gruen, E.S. 1984. *The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome*. Berkeley.

Bingen, J. 2007. *Hellenistic Egypt: Monarchy, Society, Economy, Culture*. Edinburgh.

Gutzwiller, K. 2007. *A Guide to Hellenistic literature*. Oxford.

Course Materials and Moodle

All information regarding this course, including seminar handouts, powerpoints (where provided), this module syllabus, the bibliography, assessment assignment details and lecture podcasts (where provided) 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 School Moodle co-ordinator, Dr. Errietta Bissa (e.bissa@tsd.ac.uk).