CLASS 303G: READING GREEK PROSE
San Diego State University  Fall 2008  Schedule No. 07313
TTh 1100-1215  AL 109

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SDSU Catalog Course Description: Reading classical prose authors such as Xenophon or Plato in original Greek. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context. Prerequisites: CLASS 202G; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities required for non-majors.

Course Scope and Purpose:
This course introduces students to the reading of continuous classical Greek prose as written in the original language and focuses on the Histories of Herodotus. Throughout the course students will review the fundamentals of Greek vocabulary, morphology, and syntax introduced in beginning Attic Greek (CLASS 101G and 202G) and learn new elements characteristic of Herodotus’ writing style and New Ionic dialect. The class will also discuss the historical events and cultural phenomena documented by Herodotus and students will have the opportunity to investigate a historical-cultural topic of their choice in a short writing project.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to: 1) identify and describe the characteristics of Herodotus’ New Ionic dialect and syntax; 2) compare and contrast characteristics of the New Ionic dialect with the Attic dialect; 3) translate Herodotus’ prose text, orally and in writing, into English for accuracy and comprehension; 4) identify and describe the inflectional forms for Greek nouns, adjectives, and verbs; 5) identify and analyze grammatical case uses and verb uses in Greek syntax; 6) discuss and analyze the historical-cultural context of Herodotus’ subject matter in class and in a writing project.

Required Course Materials:
Documents and additional resources on Blackboard.

Recommended Course Materials:

Course Requirements and Grading:
Participation, Preparation & Quizzes (15% of course grade)
Writing Project (15% of course grade)
(2) Examinations (2 @ 25% = 50% of course grade)
Final Examination (20% of course grade)

Participation, Preparation & Quizzes: Students are expected to attend class prepared to participate in the active oral translation of the assigned Greek text without the aid of an English translation. The more frequently you volunteer to translate in class, the higher your participation grade will be, but note that poor preparation, as demonstrated by a weak translation, will lower your score. Occasionally quizzes will be given on review material and principal parts of verbs. Make-up quizzes will only be given for excused absences. N.B. The transcribing of an English translation of the Greek text as it is being translated in class is strictly verboten!

Writing Project: Students are required to research and write a short paper (4-5pp) on a topic of their choice (but subject to the instructor’s approval) related to the Histories of Herodotus. The writing project is due Friday, Dec.12 by 3pm in my office (more specific details to follow). No papers will be accepted via email without prior permission from the instructor.
**Policy on Late Papers**: Papers received after 3pm of the due date will be considered late and the grade will be lowered by 10%; for each day late after that (including Saturday and Sunday) the grade will be lowered an additional 10%, but no late essays will be accepted after Tuesday, Dec.16, 2008.

**Exams**: There will be two exams during the semester and one final exam. The exams may include translations of material assigned for the class, questions on morphology and syntax, and/or a short essay or commentary on translated passages. Make-up exams will only be given for excused absences. An unexcused absence for any exam results in a zero (0) on the examination. The final exam must be taken as scheduled by the university and students must actively take the final exam to pass the course.

**Make-up Policy for Exams**: Make-up exams will only be offered to students who notify the instructor (in person, by telephone, or email) in advance of the scheduled exam that they are unable to take the exam because of an excused absence. Make-up exams must be completed as soon as the student is able but no later than one week from the date for the original exam.

**Note on Cheating or Plagiarism**: Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of zero (0) for the examination, assignment, or paper and may receive a grade of F for the course. Students should review definitions of cheating and plagiarism in the University Catalog, if they have any questions concerning the definitions of cheating or plagiarism.

**Schedule of Exams**:

- Exam no.1: Tues., Oct.7 (Week 6)
- Exam no.2: Thur., Nov.13 (Week 11)
- Final Exam: Tues., Dec.16 1030-1230

**Course Attendance Policy & Courtesy**: Students are expected to attend all classes unless they are ill or prevented from attending by exceptional circumstances and attendance will be recorded. If a student is absent for an excused reason (defined as illness, family or work emergencies, and authorized representation of SDSU that can be supported by written documentation), the student is responsible for providing written documentation to the professor when he/she returns to class and confirming that his/her absence is recorded as excused. Notification of an absence by phone or email does not necessarily make an absence excused; the student must provide some form of documentation or valid explanation of the absence.

Students will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences, but after the third unexcused absence the student's overall course grade will be lowered by two (2) points for each subsequent absence. For example, if your course grade is 81 (B-) at the end of the semester and you have four (4) unexcused absences, your overall course grade will be reduced by two (2) points and you will receive a 79 (C+) for the course. Perfect attendance may be taken into consideration in determining course grades, especially in borderline cases.

Students who find it necessary to miss class are responsible for the material missed and are advised to come to office hours to discuss the material, if there are any questions. For the next day's assignment after an unexcused absence, students should contact another classmate, not the instructor.

Please show respect to your fellow students and instructor by arriving to class on time, focusing your attention on the course's activities while attending, keeping your feet off empty chairs, and preparing to leave the classroom only after class has officially ended for the day. If, for a valid reason you must leave class early or expect to arrive late, please notify the instructor in advance and act in a manner that least disrupts the class.

Please no food or drinks (except lidded water containers) in class and turn cell phones OFF or place on SILENT mode (i.e., not on vibration mode) during class. Also, computers may only be used in class with permission of the instructor.