

HIST 111, Fall 2005: The Ancient World, Discussion Section Syllabus

Section AE: Belmer 309, 10:30-11:20, every Friday

Section AH: Savery 153, 11:30-12:20, every Friday

Patrick (Pat) McCormick

Office: Smith 10 (in the basement down the long corridor)

Office phone: 543-8753

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30, Thursday 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

E-mail: pamcc@u.washington.edu

Objectives of Section:

This is not a lecture class, but a discussion section, so the main purpose is for you to come and discuss and engage with the readings. This is the place for you to talk whatever you did not understand, got excited about, or were bored with in the readings. Our meetings do not replace lectures, but are an integral part of the course as a whole. What we talk about in discussion will determine in part what appears on the exams.

How to Succeed in This Course:

This course is designed for freshman. In addition to learning something about the ancient world, you'll also be learning what history is as a discipline and skills that students need in order to do well in school.

- 1) Come to lecture and take notes. I can help you with note-taking strategies, as can the History Writing Center.
- 2) Do the readings. The trick is not to read for enjoyment like you would a novel. If you have only two hours to do your readings, don't just read as much as you can in that time. Focus in on the main ideas and themes – usually the first sentence of a paragraph tells you what that paragraph is about. After a while, you get a sense of which passages to pay close attention to, which ones to skim through. **DO NOT** spend your time memorizing names and dates. We are concerned with big THEMES and ideas.
- 3) Come to discussion and try to look alive. Ask questions, give your opinion, listen to other people, have debates. Participation and effort are part of your grade. If you don't come to section, you can't participate.
- 4) Do all the assignments.
- 5) Don't plagiarize your papers. We're not that dumb, we can tell when stuff has been downloaded off the internet or comes from someone else.
- 6) Make use of the resources available to you. Come talk to me, the other TAs, and Dr. Joshel. Go to the History Writing Center if you need help with your paper, they can guide you from beginning to end. If you're putting in lots of time but aren't doing well, come talk to us!!

Contacting Me:

If you have questions or want to discuss the course, come see me. If you can't make my office hours, we can make arrangements to meet at other times. Typically I do not check email on the weekends. I also don't check email late at night, so if you have questions before assignments are due or exams, contact me before 5:00pm.

Your Responsibilities:

1. Come prepared. It is in your best interests to complete the assigned readings before lecture and section. If you don't understand the reading, all the more reason to talk about it.

2. **Participate in discussion.** Some of us are shy, others of us talk too much, but if you don't participate in discussion, I have no way of knowing where you are or whether you're doing the work. Don't make me have to call on you! Students are free to express any opinion in our meetings, be respectful of other classmates and their opinions.

3. **Be courteous.** Please turn off cellphones, beepers, etc., otherwise I will answer them. If you come in late, please be discreet. You may eat and drink in class as long as it is not disruptive. Above all, be courteous to me and your fellow students, even if we're saying something you think is stupid.

Grading Policies:

I will do most of the grading for your exams and papers. All due dates are fixed-late work will not receive full credit. Please refer to Dr. Joshel's course syllabus for details. Contact me as soon as possible for family or health emergencies. Also let me or Dr. Joshel know as soon as possible if you have a learning "disability" and will need arrangements for taking exams, etc.

Grading Complaints:

I try my best to be fair in my grading and put careful thought into the grade I assign you. If you don't understand or agree with the grade you got, please follow this procedure:

- 1) Read my comments carefully
- 2) Wait at least 24 hours before contacting me, reread my comments.
- 3) If you still have questions, bring the assignment to my office hour (or appt.) for discussion.
- 4) If we cannot resolve the issue, I will consult with the other TA's and we will reach a decision.
- 5) If this is not to your satisfaction, we will contact Dr. Joshel together.
- 6) Please note: there is a one-week statute of limitations. I will not consider any queries after that.