

Spring 2016

HIST 585-003: Special Topics in History:

Topic: Greek Historical Writing

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Patterson	TH	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	15

Semester Description:

The course focuses on a number of key issues in Greek historical writing – e.g., history as craft or as genre, historical narrative, characterization (including the use of speeches), the usefulness of history, history and truth – through the study of five ancient Greek authors: Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Plato, and Polybius. A number of topics such as the causes of war, the nature of empire, and the critique of democracy will be pursued in all five authors. In addition to close reading and discussion of the primary texts, students will be introduced to a range of secondary literature on Greek historical writing and will be expected to develop an expertise in the interpretation of one of the five authors.

Knowledge of ancient Greek is not required, but there will be an extra, optional weekly reading session (one hour TBD) for those with Greek.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. TBA.