

His 4775: Alexander the Great

Fall 2009

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Office Hours: MW 10-11, TTh 9-10
and by appointment

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Texts:

Worthington, Ian, *Alexander the Great: Man and God*, Longman

Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*, Penguin

Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander*, Penguin

Plutarch, *The Age of Alexander*, Penguin

Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History*, Book 17, Harvard

The Greek Alexander Romance (ed. Richard Stoneman), Penguin

Additional materials will be on WebCT.

Course Themes: Alexander the Great is arguably the most famous personage from Greek history. This course will chronicle the events of Alexander's life and reign and, more importantly, will explore in detail issues, questions, and controversies about the man, his times, and his legacy. We will begin with a detailed look at the reign of his father Philip, which will provide background that is essential to understanding the achievements of Alexander.

Grading:	Attendance:	5%	Exams (2):	30%
	Participation:	15%	Final Exam:	25%
	Term Paper :	25%		

Attendance and Make-Up Policy: Regular attendance should be considered a top priority. Roll will be taken at the start of each class, and late arrivals may count as absences. Make-ups for exams are only possible if your absence on that day was absolutely unavoidable (e.g., a serious medical condition, a serious accident, etc.), and you will need to provide written documentation. Make-ups are not possible unless these two conditions are met. No exceptions! (Believe me when I say this: if you are not totally committed to the class and attend regularly, chances are you will not get the grade you want.)

Academic Integrity (and other information): All work you do for this course must be yours alone. Academic dishonesty in any form is an offense against the integrity, standards, and stated policies of the university. Be sure to ask me if you are at any time uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating. Such breaches of academic integrity will be treated with stern measures, including, but not necessarily limited to, an F for the course. Additionally, during exams, **all cell phones, iPods, and other portable devices must be turned off and stowed away at all times**. Finally, when taking exams, always remember to bring a blue book. Blue books will always be required for exams in this class.

For Students with Disabilities: Any students who need accommodation for physical or learning disabilities should communicate with me as soon as possible. Appropriate accommodations are only possible for documented disabilities. If you have questions on what constitutes appropriate accommodation, or, about disabilities in general, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

Participation: Regular contributions to class discussions are expected of all students. Graduate students will be responsible for leading class discussions on designated days. While everyone in class will be responsible for whatever assignments are made for that session, the group in charge of its own session will be expected to demonstrate command of the material while leading the discussion. This is a reading-intensive course, as you can see from the schedule below. Two important points, for both graduates and undergraduates: 1) You don't have to be right every time. In fact, you'll find there are multiple ways to interpret much of the evidence. Some interpretations will be more convincing than others. The main thing I want you to do is to use evidence to back up your assertions. 2) I don't expect you to remember every single detail in the readings, and indeed lecture outlines posted on WebCT will allow you to know what to focus on, but you should still plan ahead to get all readings completed by their due dates, which will help you make more useful contributions to class discussions.

WebCT: All students are encouraged to access the course web page on WebCT regularly. I will be using this resource to post lecture outlines, assigned readings, and other materials. This syllabus will also be posted on the web site, disallowing any excuse for losing the syllabus.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change):

You are responsible for keeping track of all assignments, test dates, and due dates. Any changes will be announced ahead of time.

Abbreviations: W = Worthington; Curt. = Quintus Curtius Rufus; Dem. = Demosthenes (on WebCT); Diod. = Diodorus Siculus, Book 17; Plut. = Plutarch, *Alexander*

Unit I: Introduction and Background

Week 1

M Aug 24: Introduction; Main Sources; Bibliographical Survey (W 320-32)

W Aug 26: Background on Greek and Macedonian History I

F Aug 28: Background on Greek and Macedonian History II

Unit II: Philip II of Macedon

Week 2

M Aug 31: Beginning of Reign to Siege of Olynthus (W 9-21, Dem. *Olyn.* 1-3, *Phil.* 1)

W Sept 2: Capture of Olynthus to Peace of Philocrates (W 21-22, Dem. *Peace*)

F Sept 4: Peace of Philocrates to Battle of Chaeronea (W 22-24, Dem. *Chers.*, *Phil.* 3)

Week 3

M Sept 7: **Labor Day (no class)**

W Sept 9: Common Peace to Assassination (W 24-29)

F Sept 11: Class Discussion: Philip vs. Demosthenes

Unit III: Alexander the Great

Week 4

M Sept 14: Early Years (W 30-43, 299-303, Plut. 1-10)

W Sept 16: Alexander as King (W 44-65, Arrian [p. 41] 1.1.1-1.11.2, Diod. 1.1-16.4, Plut. 11-14)
 F Sept 18: Troy to Miletus (W 66-81, Arrian [p. 65] 1.11.3-1.20.1, Diod. 17.1-22.5, Plut. 15-16)

Week 5

M Sept 21: **Exam #1**

W Sept 23: Didyma to Gordium (W 81-90, Arrian [p. 84] 1.20.2-2.3.8, Curt. 3.1.1-3.1.18, Diod. 23.1-28.5, Plut. 17-18)

F Sept 25: Ancyra to Phoenicia (W 91-105, Arrian [p. 106] 2.4.1-2.15.7, Curt. 3.1.19-4.1.40, Diod. 29.1-40.2, Plut. 18-23)

Week 6

M Sept 28: Tyre to Egypt (W 105-16, Arrian [p. 129] 2.16.1-3.2.7, Curt. 4.2.1-4.7.5, Diod. 40.3-49.2, Plut. 24-26)

W Sept 30: Siwah (W 116-25, Arrian [p. 151] 3.3.1-3.6.3, Curt. 4.7.6-4.8.16, Diod. 49.2-52.6, Plut. 26-30)

F Oct 2: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 1

Week 7

M Oct 5: Class Discussion: Alexander and Philip, Early Years, Alexander's Use of Myth

W Oct 7: Gaugamela to Babylon (W 126-40, Arrian [p. 156] 3.6.4-3.16.5, Curt. 4.9.1-5.1.45, Diod. 53.1-65.1, Plut. 31-35)

F Oct 9: **Fall Break (no class)**

Week 8

M Oct 12: Susa to the Persian Gates (W 140-47, Arrian [p. 173] 3.16.6-3.18.9, Curt. 5.2.1-5.4.34, Diod. 65.2-68.7, Plut. 36-37)

W Oct 14: Persepolis to Parthia (W 147-57, Arrian [p. 178] 3.18.10-3.22.6, Curt. 5.5.1-6.1.21, Diod. 69.1-74.5, Plut. 37-43)

F Oct 16: Hyrcania to Areia (W 158-63, Arrian [p. 186] 3.23.1-3.25.7, Curt. 6.2.1-6.6.36, Diod. 75.1-78.4, Plut. 44-47)

Week 9

M Oct 19: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 2

W Oct 21: Drangiana to Hindu Kush (W 163-74, Arrian [p. 191] 3.26.1-3.28.10, Curt. 6.7.1-7.3.23, Diod. 79.1-83.9, Plut. 48-49)

F Oct 23: **Thesis Statements due**; Bactria to Sogdiana (W 174-83, Arrian [p. 195] 3.29.1-4.7.5, [p. 227] 4.15.1-4.18.3, Curt. 7.4.1-7.10.16)

Week 10

M Oct 26: **Exam #2**

W Oct 28: Sogdian Rock to Bactra (W 183-92, Arrian [p. 213] 4.8.1-4.12.7, [p. 232] 4.18.4-4.22.2, Curt. 7.11.1-8.5.24, Plut. 50-54)

F Oct 30: **Bibliographies due**; Bactra to Indus River valley (W 192-96, Arrian [p. 223] 4.13.1-4.14.4, Curt. 8.6.1-8.8.23, Plut. 55-56)

Week 11

M Nov 2: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 3

W Nov 4: Kabul valley to Nysa (W 197-204, Arrian [p. 239] 4.22.3-5.3.4, Curt. 8.9.1-8.12.3, Diod. 84.1-86.3, Plut. 57-58)

F Nov 6: Indus River to Sangala (W 204-214, Arrian [p. 259] 5.4.1-5.24.5, Curt. 8.12.4-9.1.23, Diod. 86.3-91.4, Plut. 59-61)

Week 12

M Nov 9: Hyphasis River to Patala (W 214-25, Arrian [p. 290] 5.24.6-6.21.2, Curt. 9.1.24-9.10.3, Diod. 91.4-104.2, Plut. 62-65)

W Nov 11: Gedrosia to Persepolis (W 225-40, Arrian [p. 330] 6.21.3-7.3.6, Curt. 9.10.4-10.2.3, Diod. 104.3-108.8, Plut. 66-69)

F Nov 13: **Detailed Paper Outlines due**; Susa to Opis (W 240-53, Arrian [p. 352] 7.4.1-7.12.4, Curt. 10.2.4-10.4.3, Diod. 109.1-110.3, Plut. 70-71)

Week 13

M Nov 16: Ecbatana to Babylon (W 253-66, Arrian [p. 368] 7.12.5-7.19.2, Diod. 110.3-115.6, Plut. 72)

W Nov 18: Death of Alexander (W 266-72, Arrian [p. 381] 7.19.3-7.30.3, Curt. 10.5.1-10.10.20, Diod. 116.1-118.4, Plut. 73-77)

F Nov 20: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 4

Thanksgiving Break (Nov 23-27)Week 14

M Nov 30: Class Discussion: Alexander and the Unity of Mankind

W Dec 2: Class Discussion: The Divinity of Alexander

Unit IV: The Legacy of Alexander

F Dec 4: *Greek Alexander Romance* Book II and Supplements F, G, and J (Recommended: The Introduction to the *Greek Alexander Romance*)

Week 15

M Dec 7: Ferdowsi, *Shahnamah* (Sekander) and other texts (on WebCT)

W Dec 9: Alexander on Film

F Dec 11: **Papers Due**; Final Reflections and Assessments

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2:45-4:45 pm