

HIS 5440: Ancient Persia: From the Achaemenids to the Sasanians

Spring 2017

Dr. Lee E. Patterson

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Office: Coleman 3781

Office Hours: TTh 9:30-11:00, 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Texts

Boatwright, Mary, Daniel J. Gargola, Noel Lenski, and Richard J. A. Talbert. *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Brosius, Maria. *The Persians: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Pomeroy, Sarah B., Stanley M. Burstein, Walter Donlan, Jennifer T. Roberts, and David W. Tandy. *Ancient Greece: A Political, Social, and Cultural History*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Wiesehöfer, Josef. *Ancient Persia from 550 BC to 650 AD*. London: Tauris, 2001.

Additional materials on D2L.

Course Themes: This course surveys the history, institutions, religion, and culture of ancient Persia, focusing on the eras of the Achaemenids, the Arsacids, and the Sasanians. Among the topics we will consider are internal political structures (king and nobility, etc.), the nature and function of Zoroastrianism (also Christianity in the Sasanian realm), historiographical questions concerning Iranian and non-Iranian (mostly Greek and Latin) sources, and relations with the civilizations to the west. Regarding the latter, much of the course will consider the diplomatic, cultural, and military relations between the Persians under the Achaemenids and the Greeks, between the Parthians under the Arsacids and the Romans, and between the Persians under the Sasanians and the later Romans.

Grading:	Participation:	15%	Term Paper:	40%
	Short Papers:	30%	Paper Reports:	15%

Attendance and Make-Up Policy: Regular attendance should be considered a top priority. Roll will be taken at the start of each class. Absences can only be excused 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. 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: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. Additionally, serious violations such as plagiarism and cheating may result in a course grade of F.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability

Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by 9th Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment. *Waiting to the last minute to make requests is strongly discouraged.*

Desire2Learn (D2L): All students are required to access the course web page on D2L regularly. I will be using this resource to post discussion questions, assigned readings, and other materials. This syllabus will also be posted on the web site, disallowing any excuse for losing the syllabus.

Abbreviations and Select Bibliography

The following abbreviations are used in the Schedule below. All items are in the Assigned Readings folder in D2L, except for Brosius 2006 and Wiesehöfer 2001.

- A-M = Álvarez-Mon, Javier. "Khuzestan in the Bronze Age." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 217-32. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Ab = Abdi, Kamyar. "Nationalism, Politics, and the Development of Archaeology in Iran." *American Journal of Archaeology* 105, no. 1 (2001): 51-76.
- Bos = Bosworth, A. B. "Alexander and the Iranians." *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 100 (1980): 1-21.
- Bou = Boucharlat, Rémy. "Southwestern Iran in the Achaemenid Period." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 503-27. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Bro1 = Brosius, Maria. "Alexander and the Persians." In *Brill's Companion to Alexander the Great*, edited by J. Roisman, 169-93. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Bro2 = Brosius, Maria. *The Persians: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2006.
- Bro3 = Brosius, Maria. "Greek Sources on Achaemenid Iran." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 658-68. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- E = Edwell, Peter. "Sasanian Interactions with Rome and Byzantium." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 840-55. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Ga = Gaslain, Jerome. "Some Aspects of Political History: Early Arsacid Kings and the Seleucids." In *The Parthian and Early Sasanian Empires: Adaptation and Expansion*, edited by V. S. Curtis, E. J. Pendleton, M. Alram, and T. Daryaee, 3-7. Oxford: Oxbow, 2016.
- Gri1 = Grigor, Talinn. "Recultivating 'Good Taste': The Early Pahlavi Modernists and Their Society for National Heritage." *Iranian Studies* 37, no. 1 (2004): 17-45.
- Gri2 = Grigor, Talinn. "Preserving the Antique Modern: Persepolis '71." *Future Anterior: Journal of Historic Preservation, History, Theory, and Criticism* 2, no. 1 (2005): 22-29.
- Ha = Hauser, Stefan R. "The Arsacids (Parthians)." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 728-50. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Hu = Hutter, Manfred. "Manichaeism in the Early Sasanian Empire." *Numen* 40.1 (1993): 2-15.
- I = Isaac, Benjamin. *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
- K = Kosmin, Paul J. "Alexander the Great and the Seleucids in Iran." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 671-89. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- M = McDonough, Scott. "Were the Sasanians Barbarians? Roman Writers on the 'Empire of the Persians.'" In *Romans, Barbarians, and the Transformation of the Roman World: Cultural Interaction and the Creation of Identity in Late Antiquity*, edited by Ralph W.

Mathisen and Danuta Shanzer, 55-65. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2011.

O = Olbrycht, Marek Jan. "Dynastic Connections in the Arsacid Empire and the Origins of the House of Sasan." In *The Parthian and Early Sasanian Empires: Adaptation and Expansion*, edited by V. S. Curtis, E. J. Pendleton, M. Alram, and T. Daryaei, 23-35. Oxford: Oxbow, 2016.

P = Patterson, Lee E. "Minority Religions in the Sasanian Empire: Suppression, Integration, and Relations with Rome." In *Sasanian Persia: Between Rome and the Steppes of Eurasia*, edited by Eberhard Sauer. Edinburgh Studies in Ancient Persia. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017. (forthcoming)

R = Radner, Karen. "Assyria and the Medes." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 442-56. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

S = Shayegan, M. Rahim. "Sasanian Political Ideology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 805-13. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Wa = Waters, Matthew. "Elam, Assyria, and Babylonia in the Early First Millennium BC." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 478-92. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Wie = Wieshöfer, Josef. *Ancient Persia from 550 BC to 650 AD*. London: Tauris, 2001.

For classical texts, you may wish to check out library copies or consult the following database: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>
All assignments below use standard citations.

Some potentially useful online resources:

Encyclopædia Iranica: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/>

UCI Persian Studies Videos: <http://vimeo.com/user15849267/videos>

Virtual Museum of Iraq: <http://www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it/homeENG.htm>

Academia.edu: https://www.academia.edu/People/Ancient_Persia

Tentative Schedule (subject to change):

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

Unit I: The Pre-Achaemenid Periods

T Jan 10 (Week 1): Introduction

T Jan 17 (Week 2): Elamites and Medes; the Rise of Cyrus

Reading Assignment: A-M pp. 217-32; R pp. 442-56; Wa pp. 478-92; Bou pp. 503-11; Herodotus 1.95-130 (D2L)

Unit II: The Achaemenid Period

T Jan 24 (Week 3): Achaemenid History; Background on Greek History; Perceptions of Greeks

Reading Assignment: Bro2 pp. 6-32; Selections in Pomeroy et al.; Bro3 pp. 658-68; I pp. 257-303

T Jan 31 (Week 4): Society and Culture of Achaemenid Persia

Reading Assignment: Wie pp. 7-93; Bro2 pp. 32-63; Bou pp. 511-23; Herodotus 1.131-40 (D2L)

F Feb 3: Short Paper #1 due: Perceptions of Greeks (due in Dropbox by midnight)

T Feb 7 (Week 5): Religion in Achaemenid Persia

Reading Assignment: Bro2 pp. 63-78; Wie pp. 94-101

T Feb 14 (Week 6): Alexander the Great and the Seleucids in Persia

Reading Assignment: Bos pp. 1–21; Bro1 pp. 169-93; K pp. 673-89; Wie pp. 105-14

Unit III: The Arsacid (Parthian) Period

T Feb 21 (Week 7): Arsacid History

Reading Assignment: Bro2 pp. 79-101

T Feb 28 (Week 8): Background on Roman History to 224; Perceptions of Romans

Reading Assignment: Selections in Boatwright et al.; Bro2 pp. 136-38; I pp. 371-80; Horace, Ovid, Lucan, Plutarch, *CIL* XI 137 (D2L)

T Mar 7 (Week 9): Society and Culture of the Parthians

Reading Assignment: Wie pp. 117-49; Bro2 pp. 101-35; Ha pp. 728-50; Ga pp. 3-7

F Mar 10: Short Paper #2 due: Perceptions of Romans (due in Dropbox by midnight)

Spring Break: March 13-17

Unit IV: The Sasanian Period

T Mar 21 (Week 10): Sasanian History

Reading Assignment: Bro2 pp. 139-59; O pp. 23-35; E pp. 840-55

T Mar 28 (Week 11): Background on Later Roman History; Perceptions of Romans

Reading Assignment: Selections in Boatwright et al.; M pp. 55-65

T Apr 4 (Week 12): Society and Culture of Sasanian Persia

Reading Assignment: Wie pp. 153-99, 216-21; Bro2 pp. 159-87, 196-200; S pp. 805-13

T Apr 11 (Week 13): Religion in the Sasanian Realm

Reading Assignment: Wie pp. 199-216; Bro2 pp. 187-96; Hu pp. 2-15; P pp. 1-13

S Apr 16: Short Paper #3 due: Religion in Sasanian Realm (due in Dropbox by midnight)

Unit V: Legacies and Conclusions

T Apr 18 (Week 14): Memories of Ancient Persia in Modern Iran (with guest instructor Brian Mann)

Reading Assignment: Ab pp. 51-76; Gri1 pp. 17-45; Gri2 pp. 22-29

T Apr 25 (Week 15): Paper Presentations

S Apr 30: Term Papers due (due in Dropbox by midnight)