

HIS 3160: Ancient Iran

Fall 2017

Dr. Lee E. Patterson

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Office: Coleman 3781

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

Class Meeting Times/Location: Coleman 2751, TTh 11:00-12:15

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.

Herodotus. *The Histories*. Penguin.

Additional materials on D2L.

Catalogue Description: This course surveys the history, institutions, and culture of ancient Iran (Persia) from c.550 BCE to c.650 CE. Topics will include internal political structures (king and nobility, etc.), the nature and function of religion (Zoroastrianism, Christianity, etc.), Persian relations with the Greeks and the Romans, and Islamic-era legacies of ancient Persia. WI, NUS

My Description: I put in that catalog description because they made me do it. Here is a fuller explanation. 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.

Learning Objectives

1. identify and describe major figures, events, and developments in ancient Iran
2. examine and analyze primary evidence (texts, material remains, etc.)
3. apply and synthesize information about historical figures, cultures, and institutions in ancient Iran

Communications: When e-mailing me, please only use Panthermail, not D2L. Please identify yourself and indicate what class you're in. Also, employ correct etiquette by starting your message with a proper salutation, like "Dear Dr. Patterson" or even "Hi, Dr. Patterson." If you e-mail me after 10 p.m., do not expect a response until the next day.

Grading:	Exam #1:	10%	Participation:	15%
	Exam #2:	20%	Term Paper:	30%
	Final Exam:	25%		

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

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 on D2L, except for Boatwright et al., Brosius 2006, and Pomeroy et al.

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. "The Kingdom of Elam." In *King of the Seven Climes: A History of the Ancient Iranian World (3000 BCE – 651 CE)*, edited by Touraj Daryaee, 7-38. Irvine, CA: UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies, 2017.

Boat = 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.

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.
- C = Cameron, Averil. *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity 395-700 AD*. London: Routledge, 2012.
- 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.
- G = 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.
- 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.
- Pa = 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, 181-98. Edinburgh Studies in Ancient Persia. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.
- Pom = 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.
- 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.
- W = 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.

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>

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

Week 1

T Aug 22: Introduction; Historical Outline

Th Aug 24: Background on Ancient Mesopotamia

Week 2

T Aug 29: Elamites I (**Readings:** Ab pp. 7-38; *Optional:* A-M pp. 217-32; W pp. 478-92)

Th Aug 31: Elamites II

Week 3

T Sept 5: Medes; Rise of Cyrus (**Readings:** R pp. 442-56; Bou pp. 503-11; Herodotus 1.95-130)

Unit II: The Achaemenid Period

Th Sept 7: Achaemenid History (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 6-32; Cyrus Cylinder)

Week 4

T Sept 12: Background on Greek History (**Readings:** Selections in Pom)

Th Sept 14: Perceptions of Greeks (**Readings:** Bro3 pp. 658-68; I pp. 257-303)

Week 5

T Sept 19: **Exam #1**

Th Sept 21: Society and Culture of Achaemenid Persia (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 32-63; Bou pp. 511-23; Herodotus 1.131-40)

Week 6

T Sept 26: Society and Culture II

Th Sept 28: Religion in Achaemenid Persia (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 63-78)

Unit III: The Arsacid (Parthian) Period

Week 7

T Oct 3: Alexander the Great (**Readings:** Bos pp. 1-21; Bro1 pp. 169-93)

Th Oct 5: The Seleucids (**Readings:** K pp. 673-89)

Week 8

T Oct 10: Arsacid History (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 79-101)

Th Oct 12: Background on Roman History to 235 (**Readings:** Selections in Boat)

Week 9

T Oct 17: Perceptions of Romans (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 136-38; I pp. 371-80; Horace, Ovid, Lucan, Plutarch, *CIL* XI 137)

Th Oct 19: Society and Culture of the Parthians (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 101-35; Ha pp. 728-50; G pp. 3-7)

Week 10

T Oct 24: Society and Culture II

Th Oct 26: **Exam #2**

Unit IV: The Sasanian Period

Week 11

T Oct 31: Sasanian History (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 139-59; E pp. 840-55)

Th Nov 2: Background on Later Roman History (**Readings:** Selections in C)

F Nov 3: **Thesis Statements due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

Week 12

T Nov 7: Perceptions of Romans (**Readings:** M pp. 55-65); **Thesis Statements due**

Th Nov 9: Society and Culture of Sasanian Persia (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 159-87, 196-200; S pp. 805-13)

F Nov 10: **Bibliographies due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

Week 13

T Nov 14: Society and Culture II

Th Nov 16: Religion in the Sasanian Realm (**Readings:** Bro2 pp. 187-96; Hu pp. 2-15; Pa pp. 1-13)

F Nov 17: **Questionnaires due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

Thanksgiving Break: Nov 20-24

Unit V: Legacies and Conclusions

Week 14

T Nov 28: **Workshop on Term Papers** (completed rough draft recommended)

Th Nov 30: Outline of Islamic Iranian History

Week 15

T Dec 5: Memories of Ancient Persia in Modern Iran (with guest instructor Brian Mann)
(**Readings:** TBA)

Th Dec 7: Ancient Iran in Modern Culture

F Dec 8: **Term Papers due** (due in the Dropbox by midnight)

Final Exam: Monday, December 11, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

This last page of the syllabus is to be returned to me. Please fill out the following questionnaire and return to me by Thursday, August 24.

Name (please print or type) _____

Major _____

Minor(s) _____

This course is about the history and culture of ancient Persia. Please indicate how familiar you are with it as you begin this class, whether through study in high school, previous college courses, popular media (films, TV, etc.), and so on.

I am very interested in knowing what your goals are as you come into this class. Why did you choose HIS 3160 and, other than a good grade, what do you hope to get out of it?

I appreciate your taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. Please sign below to indicate that you have read the syllabus completely, including all policies and requirements.

Signature _____