

## **HIS 4865: Alexander the Great**

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 2691, TTh 2:00-3:15 p.m.

**Catalog Description:** Alexander the Great, king of Macedon in the fourth century BCE, became a living legend when he conquered the Persian Empire and extended Greek culture all the way to India. This course will investigate issues, questions, and controversies about the man and his times, beginning with the reign of his father Philip and ending with Alexander's legacy. (WI, NUS, 3 credit hours)

### **Learning Objectives**

- 1) identify and describe major figures, events, and developments in the reigns of Philip and Alexander
- 2) examine and analyze primary texts in order to use texts as historical evidence
- 3) apply and synthesize information through short papers, term papers, exams, and other assignments in order to draw conclusions about key questions and problems regarding Alexander

**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.

### **Course Texts (available from Textbook Rental)**

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

Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*, Penguin

Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander*, Penguin

Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History*, Books 16.66-17, Harvard

Plutarch, *The Age of Alexander*, Penguin

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

### **Additional Readings (on D2L)**

Badian, E. "Alexander the Great Between Two Thrones and Heaven: Variations on an Old Theme." In *Subject and Ruler: The Cult of the Ruling Power in Classical Antiquity*, ed. by A. Small, 11-26.

Ann Arbor: Journal of Roman Archaeology, 1996. [Rpt. in *Alexander the Great: A Reader*, ed. by I. Worthington, 245-62. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2003.]

Bartsiokas, Antonis, et al. "The Lameness of King Philip II and Royal Tomb I at Vergina, Macedonia." *PNAS* 112.32 (2015): <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/32/9844.full>

Bosworth, A. B. "Alexander and the Iranians." *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 100 (1980): 1-21.

Brosius, M. "Alexander and the Persians." In *Brill's Companion to Alexander the Great*, ed. by J. Roisman, 169-93. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

Edmunds, L. "The Religiosity of Alexander." *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 12 (1971): 363-91.

Fredericksmeyer, E. "Alexander's Religion and Divinity." In *Brill's Companion to Alexander the Great*, ed. by J. Roisman, 253-78. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

Patterson, L. E. *Kinship Myth in Ancient Greece*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010.

Tarn, W. W. *Alexander the Great*. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1948.  
 [1948a = Rpt. in *Alexander the Great: A Reader*, ed. by I. Worthington, 205-07. London: Routledge, 2003.]  
 [1948b = Rpt. in *Alexander the Great: A Reader*, ed. by I. Worthington, 242-44. London: Routledge, 2003.]

<b>Grading:</b>	Exam #1:	10%	Participation:	10%
	Exam #2:	15%	Short Papers:	15%
	Final Exam:	25%	Term Paper:	25%

**Note for Graduate Students:** Graduate students will write a 15-20 page term paper (undergraduates' papers will be 12-15 pages), may be required to answer additional questions on exams, and in general will be held to a higher standard in terms of command of the material.

**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 do not 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.*

**Student Success Center:** Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

**In-Class Protocols:** Do not start to put away your notes, books, etc. until class is properly finished. It is disruptive in the last few minutes of class, not to mention disrespectful. Do not have smart phones and other portable devices out during class. If you're more interested in what's on your little screen than what's going on in the classroom, don't take my class! During exams, all phones and other portable devices must be turned off and stowed away at all times. When taking exams, always remember to bring a blue book, which can be purchased in the book store. Blue books will always be required for exams in this class. Each blue book you bring must be fresh with no writing in it.

**Desire2Learn (D2L):** I will be using this resource to post key names and questions (*which are required viewing before each class*), powerpoints, assigned readings, and other materials. This syllabus will also be posted on the website, 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 D2L); Diod. = Diodorus Siculus (16.1-65 = D2L, 16.66-17.118 = course textbook); Plut. = Plutarch, *Alexander*

### **Unit I: Introduction and Background**

#### Week 1

T Aug 22: Introduction; Main Sources; Bibliographical Survey (W 320-32)

Th Aug 24: Background on Greek and Macedonian History

### **Unit II: Philip II of Macedon**

#### Week 2

T Aug 29: Beginning of Reign to Siege of Olynthus (W 9-21; Diod. 16.1.1-16.4.1, 16.34.3-16.38.7, 16.53.1-16.54.4; Dem. *Olyn.* 1-3, *Phil.* 1)

Th Aug 31: Capture of Olynthus to Peace of Philocrates (W 21-22; Diod. 16.59.1-16.61.3; Dem. *Peace*)

#### Week 3

T Sept 5: Peace of Philocrates to Battle of Chaeronea (W 22-25; Diod. 16.74.1-16.77.3, 16.84.1-16.88.2 [pp. 45-53, 71-83]; Dem. *Chers.*, *Phil.* 3)

Th Sept 7: Common Peace to Assassination (W 25-29; Diod. 16.89.1-3, 16.91.1-16.95.5 [pp. 85-86, 89-103])

#### Week 4

T Sept 12: Class Discussion: Philip vs. Demosthenes; Tomb of Philip (Bartsiakas, D2L)

Th Sept 14: **Exam #1**

### **Unit III: Alexander: Historical Survey**

#### Week 5

M Sept 18: **Short Paper #1 due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

T Sept 19: Early Years (W 30-65, 299-303; Diod. 17.1.1-17.16.4 [pp. 119-63]; Plut. 1-14 [pp. 252-67]; **optional:** Arrian 1.1-1.11 [pp. 41-65])

Th Sept 21: Troy to Gordium (W 66-90; Arrian 1.11-16, 1.26-2.3 [pp. 65-76, 94-106], Curt. 3.1.1-3.1.18 [pp. 26-27], Diod. 17.17.1-17.21.6 [pp. 163-79], Plut. 15-18 [pp. 267-72])

#### Week 6

T Sept 26: Issus to Gaza (W 91-112; Arrian 2.6-27 [pp. 110-47], Curt. 3.8.12-3.12.27, 4.2.1-4.6.30 [pp. 38-47, 54-66], Plut. 20-25 [pp. 273-81]; **optional:** Diod. 17.32.2-17.48.7 [pp. 207-57])

Th Sept 28: Egypt (W 113-25; Arrian 3.1-5 [pp. 148-55], Curt. 4.7.1-4.8.16 [pp. 66-70], Diod. 17.49.1-17.52.7 [pp. 257-69], Plut. 26-30 [pp. 281-87])

Week 7

T Oct 3: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 1

Th Oct 5: Gaugamela to the Persian Gates (W 126-47; Arrian 3.7-18 [pp. 158-78], Diod. 17.53.1-17.68.7 [pp. 269-315], Plut. 31-37 [pp. 287-94]; **optional:** Curt. 4.9.1-5.4.34 [pp. 70-102])

Week 8

T Oct 10: Persepolis to Parthia (W 147-63; Arrian 3.18-22 [pp. 178-86], Curt. 5.6.1-6.3.18 [pp. 105-23], Diod. 17.70.1-17.74.5 [pp. 319-33], Plut. 37-47 [pp. 294-304])

Th Oct 12: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 2

Week 9

T Oct 17: **Exam #2**

Th Oct 19: Drangiana to Maracanda (W 163-88; Arrian 3.26-30, 4.7-9 [pp. 191-200, 212-17], Curt. 8.1.1-8.2.12 [pp. 176-81], Diod. 17.79.1-17.83.9 [pp. 345-61], Plut. 48-52 [pp. 304-10]; **optional:** Curt. 6.7.1-7.10.16 [pp. 131-73])

Week 10

M Oct 23: **Short Paper #2 due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

T Oct 24: Sogdian Rock to Aornus (W 187-204; Arrian 4.9-4.14, 4.18-19, 4.28-5.3 [pp. 217-27, 232-35, 248-59], Curt. 7.11.1-7.11.29, 8.4.21-8.11.25 [pp. 173-75, 186-203], Diod. 17.85.1-17.86.1 [pp. 365-69], Plut. 53-58 [pp. 310-16])

Th Oct 26: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 3

Week 11

T Oct 31: Indus Valley to Indian Ocean (W 204-228; Arrian 5.8-19, 5.25-29 [pp. 266-83, 291-99], Curt. 8.13.1-9.3.20 [pp. 205-19], Diod. 17.87.1-17.95.5 [p. 373-95], Plut. 59-62 [pp. 316-20])

Th Nov 2: Gedrosia to Opis (W 228-53, Arrian 6.22-26, 7.4-12 [pp. 331-40, 353-69], Curt. 9.10.4-10.4.3 [pp. 235-45], Diod. 17.105.3-17.110.3 [pp. 423-41], Plut. 66-71 [pp. 323-29])

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

Week 12

T Nov 7: Ecbatana to Babylon (W 253-72; Arrian 7.12-30 [pp. 369-98], Curt. 10.5.1-10.10.20 [pp. 245-57], Diod. 17.110.3-17.118.4 [pp. 441-71], Plut. 72-77 [pp. 329-34])

Th Nov 9: Film: *In the Footsteps of Alexander*, episode 4

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

**Unit IV: Alexander: Problems and Interpretation**Week 13

M Nov 13: **Short Paper #3 due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

T Nov 14: Class Discussion: Alexander and the Heroes: Mentality and Policy on Myth (Edmunds, Patterson)

Th Nov 16: Class Discussion: Alexander and the Unity of Mankind (Tarn 1948a, Bosworth, Brosius)

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

**Thanksgiving Break: Nov 20-24**

Week 14

M Nov 27: **Recommended due date for Optional Rough Drafts** (in the Dropbox)

T Nov 28: Class Discussion: The Divinity of Alexander (Tarn 1948b, Badian, Fredericksmeier)

Th Nov 30: Legacy of Alexander I (*Greek Alexander Romance* Book II and Supplements F, G, and J;

**recommended:** Introduction to the *Greek Alexander Romance*); Tomb at Amphipolis

(<http://www.theamphipolistomb.com/>)

F Dec 1: **Final chance to submit Optional Rough Drafts** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

Week 15

T Dec 5: Legacy of Alexander II (Ferdowsi, *Shahnamah* (Sekander) and other texts, on D2L)

Th Dec 7: Alexander on Film, Final Reflections and Assessments

F Dec 8: **Term Paper Final Draft due** (in the Dropbox by midnight)

**Final Exam:** Monday, December 11, 2:45-4:45 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 life and times of Alexander the Great. Please indicate how familiar you are with this subject 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 4865 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 \_\_\_\_\_