

Peter Hunt
CLA 4071 / CLA 5071 / HIST 4071
Duane Physics G1B39
MWF 2:00-2:50
Fall 2006

Ancient Social History: Classical Athens

Course Description: This course will cover the social history of Athens in the classical period (500-323 BC). Our topics will range from the most concrete details of Athenian life—for example, mortality rates and their effect on family structure—to the way that different Athenians conceptualized and judged their society—according to notions of honor and shame, for example. We shall begin by considering the methodological challenge of reconstructing the life of a society for which, to take just two difficulties, economic and demographic statistics are almost entirely lacking. The theoretical tools—and the caution—we acquire will first be applied to Athenian comedy, which will also serve as an introduction to the general texture of Athenian life. The majority of the semester will be devoted to the investigation of some central, and often controversial, topics in Athenian social history: demography, disease, and geography, law, honor, and violence, the Athenian economy, slavery, the status of women, and sex. Throughout the course we shall be balancing the needs to focus on one theme at a time, to consider Athenian life as a whole, and to view our sources in the terms of their own aims and intended audiences.

Office Hours: 406 Woodbury, Monday 3-4, Wednesday 11-11:50, Friday 10:30-11:30. I check my e-mail (peter.hunt@colorado.edu) on most weekdays. My office number is 303-492-6447.

If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services office in Williard Hall, Room 322.

Required Readings

- 1) Christopher Carey, [Trials from Classical Athens](#)
- 2) Aristophanes, [The Birds and Other Plays](#)
- 2) [Electronic Reserves](#): If the reading is not from Carey or Aristophanes, [Birds and Other Plays](#) and there is no special note in the syllabus, it's on electronic reserve. You need to access these readings over the web. On your web browser go to the library's catalogue, Chinook (<http://libraries.colorado.edu/>). Click on Reserve Lists and then Reserve Lists by Course. Type in "Clas 4071.". You will see a list of the reserve readings arranged alphabetically by title. Click on the assigned reading. You will need to type in your last name and student I.D. number. The reading will then be downloaded to your computer as an Adobe .pdf file. If you are at home, you may prefer just to read it on the computer. You can also print out a hard copy or e-mail it as an attachment to your home computer. You may want to use the Adobe command "Rotate" in the View menu, if the text is sideways on your computer screen. You can also use the "Zoom In" command if the writing is too small for easy reading. If you have difficulties accessing the electronic reserves, contact me right away and we'll figure something out. More information is available at <http://uclibraries.colorado.edu/circulation/ereserves/faqstudents.htm>

Grading and Requirements: Students will be graded based on how many points out of 1000 they accumulate during the semester. I expect to use a straightforward conversion system so that, for example, 800-829 = B-, 830-869=B, and 870-899 = B+. Regardless of how many points you've accumulated, you need to complete all of the listed assignments to pass the course. You'll notice that I've scaled the class participation grades so that you don't need to display lively intelligence every session to get an A for this part of the course grade. If you do nothing but warm your seat, you get 135 out of 200 points, but a combination of missing classes and seat warming can take your grade down quickly.

[Undergraduate Grades](#) (1025 points possible)
Group Presentation on topic in comedy: 100
Presentation on historical novel: 150

Two short presentations on assigned articles (individually or in pairs): 150
Short paper (6-8 pages, due November 1) 200
Final Essay Exam (Dec. 18th, 4:30-7:00) 200
Class Participation: up to 225 points (45 class meetings X 3-5 points each class [3 for seat warming, 5 for lively intelligence])

Graduate Grades (1025 points possible)

Group presentation on Topic in Comedy 100

Research presentation 150

Two short presentations on assigned articles (individually or in pairs): 150

Research paper (15-20 pages) or Greek readings and translation tests 200

Final Essay Exam (Dec. 18th, 4:30-7:00) 200

Class Participation: up to 225 points (45 class meetings times 3-5 points each class [3 for seat warming, 5 for lively intelligence])

CU Policies

Disability: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs maybe addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

Religious Observance: Campus policy states that faculty must make reasonable accommodation for such religious observances and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. The policy states that 'every effort' shall be made to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance.

Plagiarism: Students should note that their work will be evaluated through TurnItIn.com, a plagiarism service provided to all faculty members at CU-Boulder; and that this service retains a copy of the submitted work for future comparisons. All work must be submitted via e-mail attachments. Penalties for plagiarism are at my discretion and vary from an F on the assignment to an F for the course, as well as non-academic sanctions imposed by the honor's council. I discuss proper documentation at some length on the handout for the term papers.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Introduction and Methodology

August 28: Introduction to Course: "What is Social History?"

August 30: Political History of the Classical Period
Andrewes, The Greeks pages 52-75.

September 1: The Athenian Democracy
Boegehold, "The Athenian Government in Thucydides."
[Xenophon], "The Constitution of the Athenians."

September 4-No Class, Labor Day

September 6: Sources for Ancient Social History
Assignment to Comedy Sections
Kenneth Dover, Greek Popular Morality in the Time of Plato and Aristotle 1-22.

September 8: Popular Morality
Kenneth Dover, Greek Popular Morality in the Time of Plato and Aristotle 23-45.

Instructor Report: Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Culture, "Thick Description ..." 3-30.

Comedy Projects

September 11: Athenian Life in Vase Paintings
Begin comedy readings

September 13: Comedy Project: Group Meetings
Hand in comedy notes
Finish comedy readings

September 15: Comedy Project Presentations
"Law and Violence" and "Religion"

September 18: Comedy Project Presentations
"The Household" and "the Economy"

Demography, Geography, and Disease

September 20: Demography I
Hansen, Aspects of Athenian Society I 11-19.

Short Report 1: Daughtery and Kammeyer, An introduction to Population, 202-220.

September 22: Demography II
Robin Osborne, Greece in the Making 64-69.

Short Report 2: Thomas, Gallant, Risk and Survival in Ancient Greece 11-33.

September 25: The Countryside
Victor Hanson, The Other Greeks 47-87.

Short Report 3: Michael Jameson, "Agricultural Labor in Ancient Greece" in Agriculture in Ancient Greece, ed. Berit Wells 135-146.

September 27: The City

Michael Jameson, "Private Space and the Greek City" from The Greek City from Homer to Alexander, eds. Oswyn Murray and Simon Price.

Slide Show: Maps and Monuments

*****Undergraduates decide on their paper topics*****

September 29: Disease and Malnutrition
William McNeill, Plagues and Peoples 54-93.

Short Report 4: Peter Garnsey, Food and Society in Classical Antiquity 43-61.

October 2: The Plague at Athens
Thucydides, "Plague at Athens."

Short Report 5: Holladay and Poole, "Thucydides and the Plague of Athens" Classical

Short Report 6: Manolis Papagrigrakis, "DNA Examination of Ancient Dental Pulp Incriminates Typhoid Fever as a probable cause of the plague of Athens," Journal of Infectious Diseases 2006.

Quarterly 29 (1979) 282-300.

Law, Honor, and Violence

October 4: Athenian Law

Introduction to Athenian Law: Carey, Trials From Ancient Athens 1-25

October 6: The Gangs of Athens?

Carey, Trials from Classical Athens 84-97

Short Report 7: E. Anderson, The Code of the Street 66-106.

October 9: Honor and Shame

Carey, Trials from Classical Athens 75-84

Short Report 8: Julian Pitt-Rivers, "Honour and Social Status" in J. G. Peristiany ed. Honour and Shame: The Values of Mediterranean Society 21-39.

Short Report 9: Bernard Williams, Shame and Necessity 75-102.

October 11: Violence

Gabriel Herman, "How Violent was Athenian Society?" in Osborne, Hornblower (eds.) Ritual, Finance, Politics, Oxford 1994, p. 99-117.

Short Report 10: Hans van Wees, "Greeks Bearing Arms: The State, the leisure class, and the display of weapons in archaic Greece," in Fisher and Van Wees eds., Archaic Greece: New Approaches and New Evidence, 333-378.

Progress reports due on undergraduate papers

October 13: Revenge and Law

Group A: David Cohen, Law, Violence and Community in Classical Athens 87-118 and W. V.

Harris, "Lysias III and Athenian Beliefs about Revenge," Classical Quarterly 47 (1997) 363-366.

Group B: Gabriel Herman, "Athenian Beliefs about Revenge: Problems and Methods," PCPHS 46 (2000) 7-27.

Graduate Paper Topics Due

The Athenian Economy

October 16: Trying for Statistics

Signe Isager and Mogens Hanson, Aspects of Athenian Society II 19-52

Short Report 11: Richard Saller, "Framing the Debate over Growth in the Ancient Economy" in The Ancient Economy (eds. Scheidel and Von Reden) pages 251-269.

October 18: The Problem of Economic Rationalism

Carey, Trials from Classical Athens 142-163

M. I. Finley, The Ancient Economy 17-34 (E-book via Chinook)

Short Report 12: Paul Christesen, "Economic Rationalism in fourth-Century Athens" Greece and Rome 50 (2003) 31-56.

October 20: Banking at Athens

Group A: Edward Cohen, Athenian Economy and Society: A Banking Perspective 3-25.

Group B: Paul Millett, Lending and Borrowing in Ancient Athens 1-23.

October 23: Pasion and his Family

Demosthenes, For Phormio

Slavery

October 25: A Slave Society

M. I. Finley, "Was Greek Civilization Based on Slave Labour?" *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece* 97-115.

Short Report 13: Yvon Garlan, "War, Piracy, and Slavery in the Greek World," in M. I. Finley ed., Classical Slavery 7-21

October 27: Slaves and Masters

Daly (ed.), Aesop without Morals (electronic reserves)

Short Report 14: Cartledge, "Rebels and Sambos in Ancient Greece"(electronic reserves)

October 30: The Justification of Slavery

Peter Hunt, "Slaves in Greek Culture" forthcoming in The Cambridge World History of Slavery. Vol. I.

November 1: Slave Culture at Athens

*****Undergraduate papers due*****

*****Graduate paper bibliographies due*****

The Status of Women

November 3: Introduction

Sarah Pomeroy, Goddess, Whores, Wives, and Slaves 57-92.

November 6: Oppression

start Aristophanes, Lysistrata

Short Report 15: G. É.M. de Ste. Croix, "Some Observations of the Property Rights of Athenian Women," Classical Review 20 (1970) 273-278.

Short Report 16: David Schaps, "The Woman least mentioned: Etiquette and Women's Names" Classical Quarterly 27 (1977) 323-330.

Short Report 17: Mark Golden, "Demography and the Exposure of Girls at Athens" Phoenix 35 (1981) 316-331.

November 8: Revisionist Arguments

David Cohen, "Seclusion, Separation, and the Status of Women in Classical Athens" Greece and Rome 36 (1989) 3-15. (electronic reserves)

November 10: Pacifist Women on Top?

finish Aristophanes, Lysistrata

Sex

November 13: Darwinian Perspectives

Martin Daly, Margo Wilson, Homicide (I) "Why men and not women?" 137-161.

Carey, Trials from Classical Athens 26-42 (Lysias1 and Antiphon 1)

Short Report 18: Martin Daly, Margo Wilson, Homicide (II) "Till Death Do Us Part," 187-219.

November 15: The Double Standard

Gwen Bronde, "Double Standard in Sexual Behavior," in Marriage, Family, and Relationships: A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia, p. 82-86

Short Report 19: Edward Harris, "Did the Athenians Regard Seduction as a Worse Crime than Rape?" Classical Quarterly 40 (1990) 370-377.

November 17: Prostitution

Carey, Trials from Classical Athens 180-212 ([Dem.] Against Neaira)

Short Report 20: James Davidson, Fischcakes and Courtesans 73-108.

Thanksgiving Break!

November 27: Idealized Pederasty

Plato, The Symposium 526-546

Short Report 21: "David Halperin, A Hundred Years of Homosexuality 15-40.

November 29: Male Prostitutes and Citizens

Aeschines, "Against Timarchus," excerpts in T. Hubbard (ed.), Homosexuality in Greece and Rome 131-153.

December 1: Controversies and Interpretations

Group A: J. Winkler, The Constraints of Desire, 45-70.

Group B: Cohen, Law, Sexuality, and Society 171-202.

Student Presentations

December 4: **Historical Novel Presentations**

December 6: **Historical Novel Presentations**

December 8: **Historical Novel Presentations**

December 11: **Graduate Student Presentations**

December 13: **Graduate Student Presentations**

December 15: **Conclusions**

Final Exam: Dec. 18th, 4:30-7:00.

*****graduate papers due*****