

N.B.: Ownership and copyright of this syllabus remain with the original author, who has kindly shared this document for posting by the AAH's Committee on Teaching.



SYLLABUS ARCHIVE

Course and Instructor Information:

Achaemenid Persia, ca. 550-330 BC

Prof. John W.I. Lee

Associate Professor, Department of History, UC Santa Barbara

Helpful Context:

Course first designed in 2013

Average enrollment: 40

This is an undergraduate course primarily intended for History and Classics majors

It is taught completely in person.

It does not fulfill a specific requirement of the university, but does fulfill upper-division History major requirements.

Reflections of the Instructor:

Q: What do you consider to be particular strengths of this course?

A: The combination of video lectures with in-class discussions of ancient sources and recent scholarship makes it very easy to incorporate information and new perspective from recent publications.

Q: In what ways do you think the course could still use improvements/adjustments?

A: Am still working on the format and timing of written assignments. Would like have a research paper component, but that is difficult in a ten-week quarter.

Q: How generally have students responded to the course? Have there been any patterns in student feedback?

A: Students love having the video lectures for basic narrative framework, because they can watch when they want and rewind parts they missed.

HISTORY 111F
ACHAEMENID PERSIA, CA. 550-330 BC
WINTER 2019

ROOM AND TIME

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:45pm

INSTRUCTOR

Professor John W.I. Lee
office hours: by appointment
email: jwilee@history.ucsb.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS

John W.I. Lee. (2012) *The Persian Empire*. (more information on GauchoSpace)
Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones & James Robson. (2013) *Ctesias' History of Persia: Tales of the Orient*.
ISBN 978-0-415-62947-8.
Robert Strassler (ed.). (2007) *The Landmark Herodotus*. ISBN 978-1-4000-3114-6.
Cartographia Middle East Map. ISBN 9789633529768.

Additional required texts are posted on GauchoSpace.

COURSE GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

This course provides an overview of ancient Persia from the time of Cyrus to Alexander. Topics include the development of Achaemenid imperialism, economic and social history of the empire, art and architecture, and cultural interactions amongst Persians, Greeks, and others.

We will employ textual and archaeological evidence to study Achaemenid politics, warfare, society, and culture. Classroom sessions will include both lectures and discussion, with an emphasis on the analysis of ancient sources.

By the end of the quarter you should:

- Know the major events of Achaemenid history from ca. 550-330 BC
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of the sources for Achaemenid history
- Know how to analyze ancient texts and be able to cite them using proper scholarly format
- Be familiar with some of the major historiographical debates about the Achaemenid period
- Be able to describe the institutions and administrative structure of the Achaemenid Empire
- Be familiar with the ancient geography of West Asia, from Egypt to Iran

For each class meeting be prepared, be prompt, and participate. Silence and put away mobile devices before class starts. Turn in assignments at the start of class. Take an active role in discussion and cooperate with your classmates. All historical arguments supported by evidence are welcome in this class, as long as they are expressed clearly and rationally. Be respectful of and courteous to your classmates at all times.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By registering for this course, you agree to obey the Code of Academic Conduct of the University of California. You agree to follow all regulations in this syllabus, and to abide by all other University of California regulations. You are expected to **conduct yourself ethically and honorably at all times in this course**. You can be suspended or expelled for cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or other academic dishonesty. If you cheat or plagiarize I will prosecute you without mercy. There will be no allowance whatsoever for first offenses, ignorance, or other excuses. The regulations governing academic conduct may be found at here: <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu>. If you have questions about academic integrity, please ask me.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- In-Class Quizzes, Participation, and Other Activities (25%): The success of this class depends heavily on your active and thoughtful participation in discussion and other in-class activities, including in-class quizzes and writing. Expect a short quiz at the start of every class session to help you review assigned material.
- Map Quiz (10%): There will be a map quiz on Monday, 14 January.
- Analytical Paper (25%): The paper is due on Wednesday, 23 January. Details are on GauchoSpace.
- Final Exam (40%): The final exam is scheduled for **Friday, 22 March from 12pm-3pm**. The exam will cover the entire course. I will provide further details on the final exam during the quarter. There will be no early, late or makeup final examination except in extraordinary cases (severe illness or family emergency with proper documentation).

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

The full schedule of classes and assignments is posted on GauchoSpace. The schedule is subject to change at short notice. Read the schedule on GauchoSpace carefully. Note that readings and assignments must be completed **by the start** of the class for which they are assigned.

[THE SCHEDULE BELOW HAS BEEN PULLED FROM COURSE WEBSITE]

Monday, 07 January: Introduction

- Introduction to the study of Achaemenid Persia
- Explanation of course structure, goals, and requirements

Before next class (09 January):

- Watch: DVD Lecture 2
- Read: Brosius ix-xxv, 1-4; Llewellyn-Jones & Robson 1-45.

Wednesday, 09 January: Sources for Achaemenid History

Before next class (14 January):

- Watch: Lecture 3
- Read: Strassler 723-743; Assyrian Empire documents
- Study: for Map Quiz on Monday, 14 January. (notice that Parsa is also called Persis on some maps).

Monday, 14 January: West Asia ca. 1000-550 BC**MAP QUIZ AT START OF CLASS**

- lecture and discussion on Neo-Assyrian Empire and its neighbors

Before next class (16 January):

- Watch: Lecture 4

- Read: start reading Brosius 4-10; Herodotus 1.95-1.216 (58 pages); Llewellyn-Jones & Robson 133-176 (=Ctesias); Xenophon *Cyropaedia* Book 1 (59 pages), and selection from book 8. **This is a large reading assignment.**

Wednesday, 16 January: Medes, Elamites, and Persians

- lecture on Elamite history and archaeology
- discussion: the "Median Empire" (?) and the fall of Assyria

Before next class (23 January):

- Read: finish reading Brosius 4-10; Herodotus 1.95-1.216; Llewellyn-Jones & Robson 133-176 (=Ctesias); Xenophon *Cyropaedia* Book 1 and selections from book 8.
- Prepare your notes for class discussion on Wednesday (see assignment posted below).
- **UPDATED PAPER DUE DATES, AS DISCUSSED IN CLASS:** 1) Upload your DRAFT PAPER to GauchoSpace by **3:00PM on MONDAY, 28 January**. 2) Bring a printed copy of your draft to class on Monday, 28 January for in-class writing work. 3) The final version of your paper is due **MONDAY, 04 FEBRUARY**.

Monday, 21 January: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Wednesday, 23 January: Cyrus of Anshan

- in-class discussion of the textual sources for the origins, accession, and reign of Cyrus
- in-class lecture on archaeological evidence for early Persians

Before next class (28 January):

- Read: Cyrus Cylinder and related texts; also watch the videos and read the web articles.
- **UPDATED PAPER DUE DATES, AS DISCUSSED IN CLASS:** 1) Upload your DRAFT PAPER to GauchoSpace by **3:00PM on MONDAY, 28 January**. 2) Bring a printed copy of your draft to class on Monday, 28 January for in-class writing work. 3) The final version of your paper is due **MONDAY, 04 FEBRUARY**.

Monday, 28 January: Cyrus of Anshan-- Ancient and Modern Perspectives

- PAPER DRAFT WORKSHOP: BRING A PRINTED COPY OF YOUR DRAFT TO CLASS.
- discussion of the Cyrus Cylinder text and modern interpretations of the Cylinder

Before next class (30 January):

- WORK ON YOUR PAPER

- Watch: Lecture 5
- Read: Llewellyn-Jones & Robson 177-180; Hdt. 3.1-38 and 3.61-97; Bisitun Inscription of Darius. Focus on the Bisitun Inscription and Herodotus' account of how Darius I came to the throne.

Wednesday, 30 January: From Cambyses to Darius

- discussion of the Bisitun Inscription and the accession of Darius I

Before next class:

- **FINISH THE FINAL VERSION OF YOUR PAPER AND UPLOAD TO GAUCHOSPACE USING THE LINK (SEE WEEK OF 4 FEBRUARY). PAPER IS DUE BY 3:00PM ON MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY.**
- Watch: Lectures 6 & 7
- Read: Hdt. 3.88-98, 3.117-138 (Darius I as King); DNa, DNb inscriptions; DSe, DSf, DSab inscriptions

Monday, 04 February: Darius I (r. 521-486) and the Achaemenid Empire

- discussion of ancient evidence, especially inscriptions, for Darius' reign

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 8 & 9
- Read: travel documents and Briant 2012

Wednesday, 06 February: Travel and Communications

- lecture and discussion on Achaemenid Central Asia

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 10 & 11
- Read: Hdt. 4.1-4, 4.59-89, 4.118-144 (Darius in Scythia); 5.11-56, 5.96-126, 6.1-33, 6.42-63 (Ionian Revolt); 6.93-6.120 (campaign of Marathon). **Note: this is another large reading assignment.**

Monday, 11 February: The Western Frontier, 513-490 BC

- discussion of Herodotus' accounts of Scythia, the Ionian Revolt, and the battle of Marathon
- lecture on Achaemenid warfare

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 14 & 15
- Read: Kuhrt 2007

Wednesday, 13 February: Achaemenid Religion and Imperial Culture

- discussion of visual and textual evidence

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 12 & 13
- Read: Hdt. 3.150-160, 7.1-7.21; Xerxes documents; Kuhrt 2014; and Caroline Waerzeggers, "The Babylonian Revolts Against Xerxes and the 'End of Archives,'" *Archiv für Orientforschung*, Bd. 50 (2003/2004), pp. 150-173 (download from JSTOR).

Monday, 18 February: NO CLASS (Presidents' Day)

Wednesday, 20 February: Xerxes I (r. 486-465)

- discussion of Xerxes as portrayed by Herodotus and inscriptions
- discussion of the evidence for the Babylonian revolts against Xerxes

Before next class:

- Watch: Lecture 16
- Read: Artaxerxes I documents; Llewellyn-Jones and Robson 187-196 (Ctesias); Private Commerce and Banking, esp. on the Murashus.

Monday, 25 February: Artaxerxes I (465-424/3) and Darius II (424/3-405/4)

- lecture on Delian League/Athenian Empire
- comparison of Achaemenid and Athenian Empires

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 18 & 19
- Read: Jursa & Schmidl 2014

Wednesday, 27 February: Achaemenid Economic History

Before next class:

- Watch: Lectures 17 & 21
- Read: Llewellyn-Jones & Robson 197-215; Xenophon *Anabasis* Book 1
- Discussion Questions: 1. How do Xen. and Ctes. portray the war between Artaxerxes and Cyrus? How do we account for the differences in their accounts of Cyrus' life and death? 2. What role do mercenaries play on both sides of the civil war? 3. What roles do women play in the accounts of Xen. and Ctes.?-- think of Parysatis, but also Epyaxa the Cilician, and others.

Monday, 04 March: Darius II (424/3-405/4) and Artaxerxes II (405/4-359/8)

- discussion of Xenophon's *Anabasis* and the revolt of Cyrus
- discussion of women in the Achaemenid empire

Before next class (MONDAY, 11 MARCH):

- Watch: Lectures 20, 22, 23
- Read: The stories of Mania and Esther; Artaxerxes III, Artaxerxes IV, Darius III documents

Wednesday, 06 March: Class Cancelled

Monday, 11 March: The End of the Achaemenid Empire

- discussion of Artaxerxes III and Darius III.

Before next class:

- Watch: Lecture 24

Wednesday, 13 March: Final Thoughts

- preparation for final exam

Syllabus as of 31.xii.2018