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SYLLABUS ARCHIVE

Course and Instructor Information:

Athens on Trial

Prof. Vanessa Gorman

Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of History

Helpful Context:

Course first designed in Fall 2015

Average enrollment: 35

This is an undergraduate course primarily intended for majors.

It is taught completely in-person.

It does not fulfill a specific requirement of the university.

Reflections of the Instructor:

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

A: It is almost entirely based on class discussion.

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

A: I am still tweaking the paper assignments.

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

A: They are incredibly enthusiastic about it.

HIST/CLAS 301

Athens on Trial

Syllabus and Schedule

Prof. Vanessa Gorman
Office: ---

Description: We will use forensic Attic oratory to reconstruct public and private law and legal procedures in democratic Athens in the 5th to 4th centuries BCE. Topics include: assault, homicide, theft, hubris, slander, legitimacy of marriages and children, inheritance disputes, prostitution, and false witnessing.

Writing Assignments: You will write a case rebuttal and one argumentative essay. Late papers will be penalized (including papers that are returned for not following the instructions). Any paper returned for not following directions will be docked 5 points, which penalty will persist on the rewrite. Papers more than one week late will NOT be accepted and will be scored as zero. I encourage you to rewrite papers for an improved grade. Further instructions will be given during class and on Canvas.

Midterm and Final Exams: Each student must take two essay exams based on the orations we have read and our discussion of the law.

Quizzes: Each day you may be asked to take a brief quiz over the reading assigned for that day. It is your responsibility to stay current on the reading. Please do not e-mail me to find out where we are when you miss class. Make friends. The lowest three grades will be dropped.

Attendance and participation are required for this course. You need to do the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. If you do miss class, YOU are responsible for getting notes and missed assignments from a classmate and completing those assignments on time. I do not wish to hear excuses except for genuine emergencies or university-approved travel. You will accumulate points through meaningful participation. Coming to class and saying nothing earns you 5/10. A point will be subtracted for every day you are absent over 4 (except for genuine emergencies or university-approved travel). If you come to class **late**, you will not be offered another opportunity to take the quiz.

Grade Calculation

1st essay = 18 points

2nd essay = 18 points

Quizzes = 18 points

Midterm = 18 points

Final exam = 18 points

Participation = 10 points

A+ = 97.0-100, A = 93.0-96.9, A- = 90-92.9, B+ = 87.0-89.9, B = 83.0-86.9, C+ = 77.0-79.9, C = 73.0-76.9, C- = 70-72.9, D+ = 67.0-69.9, D = 63.0-66.9, D- = 60-62.9, F = 59.9 or below. For students taking this course pass/fail, a C is the minimum passing grade.

Academic Honesty: It is presumed that all students will act in a courteous, honest, and respectful way at all times. The work that you submit for this class must be your own work, whether for exams, quizzes, or papers. Plagiarism – using someone else’s work as your own – of any kind will not be tolerated under any circumstance. If you are found guilty of any kind of academic dishonesty, you will automatically fail the course and a letter will be sent to Student Judicial Affairs. Academic dishonesty as described in the UNL Student Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication or falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, misrepresentation to avoid academic work, and selling notes from any class to anyone without previous written permission from the instructor. For more information, see the Student Code of Conduct: <https://studentconduct.unl.edu/student-code-conduct>.

Notice: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Professional Communications Etiquette: Students are sometimes unsure of the appropriate manner in which to email a professor. Emails have the most positive impact when they have a proper salutation (Dear Professor, Dear Dr. ...), and when they are signed with the writer’s first and last name. Take your time before sending an email and make sure that you are polite and calm in tone. You will always receive the same courtesy from me.

TEXTS

- Michael **Gagarin**, ed. *Speeches from Athenian Law*. Texas 2011.
- Debra **Hamel**, *Trying Neaira: The True Story of a Courtesan’s Scandalous Life in Ancient Greece*. Yale 2003.
- **Highly Recommended** (I did not order this): David **Phillips**, *The Law of Ancient Athens*. Michigan 2013. [Excerpts on Canvas]
- Website: “**Demos: Classical Athenian Democracy**”
[<http://www.stoa.org/projects/demos/home>]
- Miscellaneous Readings on Canvas

SCHEDULE

This schedule is not binding. We may move faster or slower. You need to keep track of where we are on a day-to-day basis and have the appropriate reading assignments prepared. Expect a daily quiz on the readings.

All readings are from Gagarin unless noted otherwise. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are web-links in Canvas.

Each day you should be prepared to discuss the relevant oration, summarize it, and debate the information about Athenian law and society derived from it. Other readings may be added. IF YOU MISS CLASS, you are still responsible both for the material you missed and for preparing

the relevant material. DO NOT ASK ME FOR IT. In class, I will give you an approximation from day-to-day of what you should have prepared for the next class.

SPECIAL DATES

PAPERS

- Paper #1 due Thursday, October 25th
 - Rewrites due Thursday, November 8th
- Paper #2 due Tuesday, November 27th
 - Rewrites due Thursday, Dec. 6th

EXAMS

- Midterm: Monday, Oct. 8th – Friday, Oct. 12th
- Final Exam
 - Available in the Testing Center = Monday, Dec. 3rd – Tuesday, Dec. 11th
 - Hand-Written (by request only) = Wednesday Dec. 12th, 3:30-5:30

PART 1: Historical Overview and Background

Week 1 (Aug. 21 & 23): Brief History of Athens, 6th – 4th centuries; Democracy

- **Phillips** 2013, Introduction, pp. 1-16 [**Canvas**]
- *Christopher **Blackwell**, “Athenian Democracy: A Brief Overview,” on **Demos** website [called “An Introduction to the Athenian Democracy” on the main **Demos** page]

Week 2 (Aug. 28 & 30): Government, Legal Procedures

- **Phillips** 2013, Introduction, pp. 16-43. [**Canvas**]
- **Gagarin**, “Introduction,” pp.1-13.
- **Handout**: “Attested Lawsuits/Charges” [**Canvas**]
- *Victor **Bers** and Adriaan **Lanni**, “An Introduction to the Athenian Legal System,” on the **Demos** website.

Week 3 (Sept. 4 & 6) Jury Courts; Sources

- **Hamel** 2003, 141-54.
- *Danielle Allen, “Punishment in Ancient Athens,” on **Demos** website.

PART 2: Homicide and Attempted Murder

- Draco’s Law on Homicide (*IG* 1³.104) [**Canvas**]
- Demosthenes 23.22-86, *Against Aristocrates* [**Canvas**]

Week 4 (Sept. 11 & 13)

- Antiphon 2, *First Tetralogy*, (murder; *artificial oration*) [**Gagarin** 17-27]
- Lysias 1, *On the Death of Eratosthenes* (justifiable homicide; adultery) [**Gagarin** 75-86]

Week 5 (Sept. 18 & 20)

- Antiphon 1, *Against the Stepmother* (homicide; conspiracy) [**Gagarin** 44-51]
- Antiphon 6, *On the Chorus Boy* (unintentional homicide) [**Gagarin** 28-43]
- *Recommended Reading: Michael Gagarin, "Athenian Homicide Law: Case Studies" on **Demos** Website

Week 6 (Sept. 25 & 27):

- Antiphon 5, *On the Murder of Herodes* (homicide) [**Gagarin** 52-74]

PART 3: Assault and Hubris

- Readings on Hubris and Assault [most are from Phillips ch. 2] [**Canvas**]
- Lysias 4, *On a Wound by Premeditation*, trans. Todd [**Canvas**]

Week 7 (Oct. 2 & 4)

- Demosthenes 54, *Against Conon* (battery; hubris) [**Gagarin** 87-99]
- Lysias 3, *Against Simon* (intentional wounding) [**Gagarin** 100-109]

Week 8 (Oct. 9 & 11)

Midterm Exam available from Monday, October 8, through Friday, October 12.

Tuesday: Paper Instructions

Thursday: No class

Week 9 (Oct. 16 & 18)

Tues: Fall Break

Thursday:

- Lysias 10, *Against Theomnestos* (slander), trans. Carey [**Canvas**]

PART 4: Family Law and Inheritance

Week 10 (Oct. 23 & 25)

- Isaeus 7, *On the Estate of Apollodoros* (adoption) [**Gagarin** 260-73]
- Demosthenes 27, *Against Aphobus I* (Guardianship) [**Gagarin** 300-320]

Paper 1 due: Thursday midnight

Week 11 (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1)

- Isaeus 8, *On the Estate of Ciron* (legitimacy of marriage) [**Gagarin** 274-89]
- Isaeus 3, *On the Estate of Pyrrhus* (legitimacy of marriage), trans. Edwards [**Canvas**]

PART 5: Sexuality and Citizenship

Week 12 (Nov. 6 & 8)

- Debra **Hamel**, *Trying Neaira* (entire)
- Demosthenes 59, *Against Neaira* (Female prostitution and citizenship).
Tuesday: Chapters 1-17 The vendetta [**Gagarin** 146-51]
Thursday: Chapters 18-49 Prostitution [**Gagarin** 151-61]

Paper 1 rewrites due: Thursday midnight

Week 13 (Nov. 13 & 15)

- Demosthenes 59, *Against Neaira* (Female prostitution and citizenship).
Tuesday: Chapters 50-87 Phano [**Gagarin** 161-71]
Thursday: Chapters 88-125 Summary [**Gagarin** 171-82]

Week 14 (Nov. 20 & 22)

Paper 2 due: Tuesday midnight
THUR: No class [Thanksgiving]

Week 15 (Nov. 27 & 29)

- Aeschines 1, *Against Timarchus* (Male prostitution and citizenship) [**Gagarin** 188-243]
Tuesday: chapters 1-70
Thursday: chapters 71-116

Week 16 (Dec. 4 & 6)

- *Timarchus* (continued)
Tuesday: chapters 117-195
- Thursday: catch-up

Paper 2 rewrites due: Thursday midnight

FINAL EXAM:

- Available in the Testing Center from Monday, Dec. 3, to Tuesday, Dec. 11
- Anyone who fails to take it in the testing center must make arrangements to sit for a handwritten version on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 3:30-5:30.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (for further, optional reading)

- Carawan, Edwin. *Rhetoric and the Law of Draco*. Oxford 1998.
- Cartledge, Paul, Paul Millett, and Stephen Todd, eds. *Nomos: Essays in Athenian Law, Politics and Society*. Cambridge 1990 [various essays]
- Cohen, David. *Law, Sexuality and Society: The Enforcement of Morals in Classical Athens*. Cambridge 1991.
- Cohen, David. *Law, Violence and Community in Classical Athens*. Cambridge 1995.
- Gagarin, Michael, ed. *Speeches from Athenian Law*. Austin 2011.
- Gagarin, Michael, and David Cohen, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Greek Law*. Cambridge 2005. [various essays]
- Hamel, Debra. *Trying Neaira: The True Story of a Courtesan's Scandalous Life in Ancient Greece*. New Haven 2003.
- Hunter, Virginia, and Jonathan Edmondson, eds. *Law and Social Status in Classical Athens*. Oxford 2000. [various essays]
- Just, Roger. *Women in Athenian Law and Life*. Routledge 1989.
- Todd, S. C. *The Shape of Athenian Law*. Oxford 1993.