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## SYLLABUS ARCHIVE

### Course and Instructor Information:

#### **Hellenistic World from Alexander to Cleopatra**

Prof. Jeremy LaBuff

Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University

### Helpful Context:

Course first designed in Spring 2018

Average enrollment: 30

This is an undergraduate course primarily intended for majors.

It is taught completely in-person.

It fulfills both a general education and major requirement.

### Reflections of the Instructor:

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

A: Global approach, lesson plan option

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

A: More activities in class

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

A: Overall students respond favorably but struggle with some of the paper assignments.

**\*\*\*Supporting materials for this course will be available on another page of the AAH website\*\*\***

## HIS 333: The Hellenistic World from Alexander to Cleopatra

Spring 2018

MW 4-5:15 pm, 3 credits

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy LaBuff, [jeremy.labuff@nau.edu](mailto:jeremy.labuff@nau.edu)

**Availability (Office Hours):** ---

### **Course Description:**

Catalog: Political, social, and cultural development of the multi-cultural Hellenistic world that emerged in the wake of Alexander of Macedon's conquest of the Persian Empire, stretching from Spain in the west to India in the east, until the Roman and Parthian conquests of these regions, culminating with the death of Cleopatra. Letter grade only.

Additional: Often seen as an intermediate period between Classical Greece and the Roman Empire, the Hellenistic World in fact witnesses some of the most lasting developments in world history: the rise of the Silk Road, salvation religions, Jewishness, philosophical materialism, major advances in medicine & mathematics, artistic realism...the list could go on indefinitely, and each of these (and many more) had a major impact on the Islamic, Byzantine, and Catholic worlds that emerged from the Hellenistic, not to mention the more subtle influences that stretched into Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and China.

At the same time, the period also has some rather "modern" aspects to it: the proliferation of both democracy and imperialism, with accommodation and tension between the two; economic and cultural "globalization"; intensive interaction, exchange, synthesis, and conflict between politically dominant and indigenous ethnic and cultural groups. The experiences of democracy and imperialism, globalization, and multiculturalism are ones we grapple with today, and as such the Hellenistic world has much to offer us in terms of how others dealt with these issues, for better or for worse.

### **Assessment of Course Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Participation:** Almost every class will involve a combination of lecture and discussion, and your involvement will be crucial to our exploration of the major issues and evidence in Hellenistic history. The participation grade will be evaluated as follows:

- "A": volunteering to contribute **significantly** to lecture and discussion in at least half of the class sessions, and regular attendance.
- "B": volunteering to contribute **significantly** in more than 5 sessions.
- "C": volunteering to contribute **significantly** in more than one session.
- "D": regular attendance and little or no contribution in class.
- "F": poor attendance and no contribution in class.

In addition, each unexcused absence above your third will result in a deduction.

**\*\*Up to 50% of the participation grade can be “re-assigned” if you opt to lead discussion one class session. For dates, further details, and to volunteer, please contact me.**

**Reading Quizzes:** Over the course of the semester, six online reading quizzes will be administered on BBLearn, each worth 15 points. Students will be graded on their best five scores on these quizzes, which will always only cover secondary source readings (never the sources in Austin). Due dates for specific quizzes are indicated below.

**Online Discussion:** Based on the discussions each week, students must post to the BBLearn Discussion Board a reflective paragraph by the end of the week (Friday night) that further explores the questions and issues raised in class relevant to the primary source evidence. This paragraph is encouraged to be in response to another student’s paragraph. Posts should explore textual issues such as authorial bias, intended audience, historical accuracy, etc., and ultimately are meant to register your own thoughtful reaction to the text. Students will write 4 posts during the semester, worth 25 points each, and their first post must be written by February 1st.

**First Paper:** Students will choose a time period within Hellenistic history and write a comparative assessment of several different narratives of this period, adjudicating differences in emphases and information, while also evaluating use of (or failure to use) primary source evidence. Further details on requirements and deadlines to be distributed.

**Peer Editing:** Drafts of papers must be turned in to a paired fellow student 1 week before the final deadline, at which time they will be edited by another student in the class. You will then be expected to incorporate this feedback into your final draft. Failure to submit your feedback on time will result in a letter deduction from the grade of your primary source paper.

**Secondary Paper:** Each student will choose a secondary source article to evaluate from a list to be distributed. The paper must demonstrate an understanding of the author’s main argument and how evidence and argument contribute to it, while also assessing the persuasiveness of the argument and its application to evidence not adduced by the author but read in class. Further details on requirements and deadlines will be distributed.

**Final Paper or Lesson Plan:** As your final assessment, you will either select and write a 10-page review of a book-length study of an aspect of the Hellenistic World (list to be distributed), OR develop a written lesson plan (with at least 3 lessons) for a secondary education history class based on material learned in this course. Further details on the requirements for both options will be distributed.

**Grading System:** The breakdown of graded assignments is as follows:

Participation:	100 points	A= 1000-895 points
Reading Quizzes:	75 points	B= 894-795 points
BBL Discussion Posts:	100 points	C= 794-695 points
First Paper:	200 points	D= 694-595 points
Second Paper:	175 points	F= below 595 points
Final Assignment	350 points	

**Structure/Approach:** This course will combine interactive lecture with class and group discussion of primary sources, often combined in the same class session, in order to emphasize student engagement with and appropriation of Hellenistic history. As such, it is critical that students come to class having done the readings and with responses prepared to offer. I expect each student to believe that they have something worth saying, or to clarify the material before class so that they can have something worth saying. This is not a sit-back-and-be-entertained lecture course.

### **Readings and Materials**

-*The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest*, M. Austin. 2006

-*The Hellenistic Age*, P. Thonemann. 2016

**\*\*Trouble paying for books?** Check out the Emergency Loan Program:

<https://nau.edu/first-gen/emergency-textbook-loan-program/>

-Other readings will be posted in BBLearn

### **Course Schedule**

(professor reserves the right to make adjustments)

**Jan 14-16:** Introduction: “Hellenistic,” Globalization, Multiculturalism; Alexander

Read: Thonemann 1-23

**Jan 23:** The Last King of Persia

Read: Austin ##2-22

**Jan 28-30:** Game of Thrones: the Wars of the Successors

Read: Thonemann 23-27, Austin ##1, 26-37, 41, 47, 56, 57, 59

**Feb 4-6:** 3rd-Century Political Order & Hellenistic Kingship

Read: Thonemann 27-35, 49-68; Austin ##38-39, 42-46, 48, 51, 207, 258, 271

**Quiz 1 due by start of class Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 11-13:** Macedonian Pharaohs: Ptolemaic Egypt

Read: Austin ##254-272, 292-325 (omit: 258, 261, 263, 266, 268-71, 297, 299, 305, 309-10, 314, 318, 320, 322)

**Feb 18-20:** Hellenistic Science, Art, and Literature

Read: Thonemann 69-88; Austin ##138, 139, 141-146, 165, 261; **BBL selections**

**Quiz 2 due by start of class Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 25-27:** The Heirs of Persia: the Seleukids and their Subjects

Read: Austin ##158-168, 170-173, 176, 185, 194, 198, 200, 210

**Mar 4-6:** Hellenistic Encounters: Bactria, India, Nubia

Read: Thonemann 89-100; Austin ##177, 178, 186, 188, 190; **BBL selections**

**Quiz 3 due by start of class March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Mar 11-13:** Balkan Politics: Autonomy & Federalism between Macedon & Sparta  
Read: Austin ##61-75, 101-106, 119, 121, 125, 136, 147, 152, 154, 156, 157

**Mar 18-22** Spring Break: No Class

**Mar 25-27:** Anatolia: (Border)Land of Freedom?  
Read: Thonemann 111-133; Austin ##107, 110-114, 117, 118, 130, 135, 134, 153, 155, 174, 189, 224-231  
**Quiz 4 due by start of class March 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Second Paper Due March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Apr 1-3:** Hellenistic Encounters: Scythia, Carthage, Rome  
Read: Thonemann 101-110; Austin #115 (optional); **BBL** selections  
**Quiz 5 due by start of class April 3<sup>th</sup>**

**Apr 8-10:** The 50 Years that Changed the “World”: Rome looks East  
Read: Thonemann 35-44; Austin ##83-86, 91-92, 96-100, 205, 211  
Optional: Austin ##76-82, 93-95, 187, 192, 195-197, 202, 203, 212, 234, 248-51

**Apr 15-17:** Hellenistic Religions and Philosophies  
Read: Austin ##148-151, 214-217; **BBL** Selections

**Apr 22-24:** The Fall of the Hellenistic Powers & Hellenistic Legacies  
Read: Thonemann 44-48; Austin ##218-221, 223, 277, 284, 286, 288, 289, 291  
Optional: 282, 283, 290  
**Quiz 6 due by start of class April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Apr 29-May 1:** Drafting Final Papers & Lesson Plans; Group/Individual Meetings (No Class)

**May 6, 5 pm:** Final Paper Due

### **University and Class Policies**

-You are responsible for knowing all university policies:

<http://www4.nau.edu/avpaa/policy1.html>

-Attendance: Attendance is usually factored into your participation grade: each absence after your third that is not made up within a week will result in a 5 point deduction.

-Late Work: Out-of-class assignments (excepting Lore posts) will be deducted according to the following scale:

¼ letter grade.....same day

½ letter grade.....per day late

-Make-Up Work: Please communicate as soon as possible if you know you will miss an important assignment for legitimate reasons. The more time I have to anticipate such situations, the more accommodating I will be. **All students are responsible for finding out announcements and lecture/discussion material that were covered during an absence.**