Instructor: Noah Davies-Mason  
Email: noah.daviesmason@gmail.com  
Office: 2408 Boylan Hall  
Office hours: Wed 11:30-12:00PM

CLAS 1110 MW9F: Tyranny, Democracy, Empire  
Brooklyn College  
Fall 2018  
M/W 9:30-10:45AM  
Boylan 4137

Course Syllabus

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the literatures of select classical cultures -- in our case, primarily Ancient Greek culture. Literature is understood broadly as inclusive of all written documents. We will read epic poetry, history, lyric poetry, tragedy, comedy, public oratory, and philosophical dialogues. Each of these texts will reveal different aspects of Greek thought and culture, a culture that has been hugely influential in the development of European culture, and, in a different way, on Islamic culture as well. While we will give special emphasis to the political themes of the title, we will also pay attention to a broad scope of social, historical, philosophical, and literary issues.

Course Goals: This course aims to develop skills associated with thinking about ancient texts, especially reading and writing. At the end of the semester, students will be able (1) to read ancient texts critically, (2) to write in an exploratory way about our readings, (3) to write analytically and with a focused thesis, and (4) to demonstrate a broad familiarity with the cultural contexts of our texts.

Required Texts: This course is being run as part of the Online Educational Resources (OER) initiative at Brooklyn College and so all required readings are available on the Brooklyn Library website, here: http://libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/classics1110. Most are password protected pdf’s. I will share the password in class and on Blackboard.

Assessment:  
percentage  point scale
I. Annotations  15%  150
II. Participation  10%  100
III. Paragraph Assignments (10)  25%  250
IV. Midterm  15%  150
V. Final  15%  150
VI. Papers (2: 10% each)  20%  200
Total: 100%  1,000

Letter grade equivalents:
A+ = 97-100  B+ = 87-89  C+ = 77-79  D+ = 67-69  F = below 60
A = 93-96  B = 83-86  C = 73-76  D = 63-66
A- = 90-92  B- = 80-82  C- = 70-72  D- = 60-62

I. For every reading, you are required to annotate your reading. This means, at a minimum that you make 3 annotations per page. These must be handed in on the day of the reading. No late annotations will be accepted. Ideally, I would ask you to print out every single reading and annotate this printed copy. However, I understand that this could be both a financial burden and an extra physical burden, so I give you options.

Option 1: print out the reading and annotate the reading - marking things that interest you or raise questions (refer to the How to Annotate a reading for ideas and guidelines). Hand this in on the day the reading is due.
Option 2: You may also choose to take notes separately (either handwritten or typed) and hand that in to me on the day the reading is due. In this case, you must give a specific citation, by writing out the word or phrase that you are focusing on and the page and line number (for example in the Iliad you should cite book and line numbers: 9.123).

II. Participation will be judged based on your attendance, continuous presence in class, and quality of engagement with the material as evidenced in class discussions and in-class writing. These informal in-class writing exercises will give you an opportunity to explore ideas and concepts we encounter in our readings, and find different ways of approaching the texts. These writing exercises will be given frequently throughout the semester at the beginning of class and will count toward participation.

III. Throughout the semester there will be ten paragraph assignments. These paragraph assignments are an opportunity to think through the puzzles, problems and questions inherent in our texts. In some prompts you will explore and unpack things that have puzzled you, while in others, you will make a concise, thesis-driven argument, seeking to resolve a problem in a careful and thoughtful way. Due dates are listed in the schedule below. These will be submitted online through Blackboard and will be graded on a 3-point scale. A rubric will be included with the assignment description.

IV-V. The midterm and final will consist in short answer and multiple questions about key concepts and the historical context, based on class lectures, discussions, and readings.

VI. Two term papers are required, each 4-5 pages. Each one of these papers will be developed out of one of your paragraphs. The papers should further engage in careful and thoughtful reading of the texts, more fully explore your puzzles, problems and questions, and present soundly reasoned arguments for a thesis based on a close reading of the text. Do not use any other material besides the texts read in this course, which are relevant to the selected paper topic. You will be assessed based on the soundness of your argument, appropriate use of evidence, and the clarity of your writing. Late term papers are subject to 10% downgrade for each class meeting they are overdue. Late term papers will not be accepted if they are more than two class meetings overdue. Use of outside sources for this paper may result in a grade of a zero.

Academic Integrity: The following is the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity: “Simply put, plagiarism is intellectual theft, using someone else’s ideas and words without clearly acknowledging that these words and ideas are not your own. We will learn the appropriate protocols for acknowledging that we have borrowed other people’s words and ideas. It is your responsibility, however, never to take someone else’s work, words, and ideas and pretend that they are your own. If you do this, you have committed plagiarism, and the penalties are severe. You will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and will receive an F for the offending work. If the offense is repeated, you will receive an F for the course. For further information on your rights and responsibilities as a Brooklyn College student, please refer to CUNY’s policy on academic integrity at its on-line location: http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies. As a CUNY and Brooklyn College student you are responsible for knowing and adhering to this policy. If the policy is unclear to you, speak to a professor or academic counselor. To avoid inadvertent plagiarism, make sure that you always cite the source where you found your material. Internet sources must be footnoted and are not allowed in all classes.” Accordingly, all written essays for this class must be uploaded to SafeAssign via BlackBoard. You will find information on how to use BB and SafeAssign here: https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Assignments/Assignments_Using_SafeAssign/Submit_SafeAssignments. In-person individual help is available in the library. Your paper will not be given a final grade until a SafeAssign report is generated.
Policy on Attendance:
Attendance is required. You are expected to be in the classroom promptly for each meeting. A functioning classroom requires the presence and engagement of all parties involved. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. There will be a sign in sheet for those who arrive late to class. Three (3) latenesses will count as an absence. If you miss more than four (4) classes your grade will drop one full letter grade for each additional absence. If you miss more than six (6) classes you will fail the course. If extreme circumstances prevent you from fulfilling these requirements and you have given me prior notice, certain accommodations will be considered.

How to Prepare for Class:
For every class, you will be assigned a difficult text from ancient Greece, so it is important that you develop a successful strategy for doing the readings successfully. If you decide to print out a reading, make sure to print it early enough that you will have sufficient time to prepare. For every reading, you should plan to give yourself at least 2 full hours to read through the text while making annotations. Silence your phone and minimize any other possible distractions. For some, the readings may take longer (that does NOT make you a slow reader; difficult texts take time to read!), so you should plan accordingly. On days when paragraph assignments are due, allot yourself at least 1 full hour to write your paragraph. (See the assignment handout for guidelines.) If no paragraph assignment is due, give yourself a full hour to take extra notes reflecting on the reading (this is not the same as annotations), for which you can consider questions such as how does this reading interact with the values of Greek culture that we have been discussing in class? What are the central themes in the text? How are two characters similar or different? Wow does it compare with other readings?

Class Participation:
Come to class prepared to participate in the classroom activities, including taking notes, group work, writing exercises, and discussion. You should arrive having done the assigned reading and written assignments. Make sure to have the text for the assigned reading with you in class.

Etiquette:
Please maintain respectful behavior both towards your instructor and towards your fellow students. Refrain from all use of cell phones in class.

Student Writing Center:
In addition to coming to my office hours, I strongly encourage you to visit the Learning Center (1300 Boylan Hall) for help with your writing. Revision is important to the process of writing and outside criticism helps to expedite it.

Disability:
In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.
Schedule of Class Sessions and Assignments

** Note that this schedule and syllabus are subject to revision, which would be announced in class and on Blackboard. Some readings do not have specific page numbers here – these will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

1. M Aug 27 introduction
2. W Aug 29 Iliad 1 paragraph #1

M Sept 3 (LABOR DAY - NO CLASS)
3. W Sept 5 ch 2 (MONDAY SCHEDULE) Iliad 6

M Sept 10 (NO CLASS)
4. W Sept 12 Iliad 9 paragraph #2

5. M Sept 17 Iliad 16 and Iliad 18
6. W Sept 19 (NO CLASS)

6. M Sept 24 Iliad 22 and Iliad 24 paragraph #3
7. W Sept 26 Aeschylus Agamemnon

8. M Oct 1 Aeschylus Agamemnon paragraph #4
9. W Oct 3 Herodotus

M Oct 8 (NO CLASS)
10. W Oct 10 Herodotus paragraph #5

11. M Oct 15 Herodotus
12. W Oct 17 Herodotus paper draft due

13. M Oct 22 review
14. W Oct 24 midterm, paper 1 due (at midnight)

15. M Oct 29 Thucydides: Method
16. W Nov 31 Thucydides: Pericles and Plague paragraph #6

17. M Nov 5 Thucydides: Mytilene and Melos
18. W Nov 7 Thucydides: Sicily paragraph #7

19. M Nov 12 Euripides Medea
20. W Nov 14 Euripides Medea paragraph #8

21. M Nov 19 Lysias 1
22. W Nov 21 Aristophanes Clouds paragraph #9

(Nov 22 is Thanksgiving)
23. M Nov 26 Aristophanes *Clouds*
24. W Nov 28 Plato *Apology* paragraph #10

25. M Dec 3 Plato *Crito*
26. W Dec 5 Plato *Symposium* draft for paper 2

27. M Dec 10 Plato *Symposium*
28. W Dec 12 - Final review paper 2 due (at midnight)

M Dec 17 8:00AM-10:00AM FINAL EXAM