

**Classical Archaeology & Ancient History**  
**Greek Core subject: Aristocracy and Democracy ca. 550 – 450 B.C.**

**Introductory reading**

During the summer we would like you to become familiar with the general outline for Greek history for the years 550 to 450, and with some of the more important ancient sources for the period. Some of these are set texts for the paper on which exam questions are set at the end of the first year.

1. Herodotus. We would prefer you to use the Oxford World's Classics ed. translated by Waterfield, but you may use instead the Penguin ed. translated by Selincourt and updated by Marincola, or the Landmark Herodotus translated by A.L. Purvis (with helpful appendices, illustrations, maps, dates). Aim to read all of the passages in the prescription, but knowledge of the whole text will be useful (and it's a good read).

2. *The Athenian Constitution Written in the School of Aristotle* (a work associated with Aristotle, but not necessarily written by him). Read chapters 13 to 26. If possible, use the Aris & Phillips edition with introduction & notes by P.J. Rhodes, but the older Penguin ed. translated by P.J. Rhodes will also do. This is a dense but very short work.

3. Plutarch *Cimon* (or *Kimón*). This is a short and lively 'biography' of a leading Athenian statesman. Use Penguin ed. translated by I. Scott-Kilvert in the volume titled *The Rise and Fall of Athens*. If you enjoy this work then you might also like to read (and will find helpful) the lives of Themistocles, Aristeides and Pericles from the same volume, though these are not set texts.

4. **[Xenophon]** *The Spartan Constitution* (also known as the *Lakedaimonion Politeia* or as *Spartan Society*). Use Penguin ed. translated by R. Talbert in the volume titled *Plutarch on Sparta*. The same volume includes Plutarch's life of Lycurgus which you may also like to read (the *Lycurgus* is **not** a set text but you will find helpful for the week on Sparta).

5. For an overview of the period ca. 550 to 450, and for a broad conspectus of Greek history in general that will orientate this period in longer-term processes and serve you well throughout your course see: Rhodes, P.J., 2014, *A Short History of Ancient Greece*, I.B. Tauris, esp. chs 1 to 6.

6. Start to build up and learn a list of key **dates**: you will find these extremely helpful.

### **Optional Further Reading**

A. Read the remaining items from the list of set texts.

B. For a general introduction to the archaeology and history of the archaic Greek World, start with: Hall, J., 2013, *A History of the Archaic Greek World ca. 1200-479 BCE*, **second edition**, Blackwell, Oxford: chapters 1, 2, and 6 to 12.

C. For a more archaeologically focused approach see also Whitley, J., 2001, *The Archaeology of Ancient Greece*, Cambridge University Press: chapters 1 to 4 and 8 and 9.

D. For a more comprehensive account of the period 550-479 see also Osborne, R.G., 1996 or 2ed. 2009, *Greece in the Making*, Routledge, London, esp. chs 6-9.

### **SET TEXTS**

**Herodotus:** translated by R. Waterfield for Oxford University Press

Book I chapters 1-94 (proem etc, story of Kroisos)

141-176 (Ionia)

II. 151-182 (Egypt under Saite Dynasty)

III. 39-60 (Polykratean Samos)

80-97 (Persian matters incl. 'Constit. Debate', Satrapies, Tribute)

120-149 (Samos again)

160 (Zopyros)

V.-IX. in entirety.

**[Aristotle]** *The Athenian Constitution Written in the School of Aristotle* (also known as the *Athenaion Politeia*) translated by P.J. Rhodes for Aris & Phillips: chapters 13-26.

**[Xenophon]** *The Spartan Constitution* (also known as the *Lakedaimonion Politeia* or as *Spartan Society*) translated by R.J.A. Talbert for Penguin.

**Plutarch** *Cimon*: translated by I. Scott-Kilvert for Penguin.

**Theognis:** translated by D.E. Gerber, *Greek Elegiac Poetry*, 1999 for Loeb.

**Thucydides:** translated by M. Hammond for Oxford University Press

Book I chapters 89-117 (Pentekontaetia)

chapters 126-138 (The end of Themistokles and Pausanias)

### **Epigraphy**

The set texts include several short inscriptions which we shall not expect you to read before the start of the term.

## **Key Selected Passages for Weeks I & II**

Freshers Week and the beginning of term make up one of the busiest parts of the academic year. If you would like to get ahead then as well as covering the following passages in the introductory reading you may wish to note them in more detail:

"Hdt" = Herodotus

"AP" = [Aristotle] *The Athenian Constitution*

### **I. Polykrates and Samos**

Hdt

3.39-60 (the main narrative)

3.120-126 (death – add 126-128 for death of Oroites)

3.128, 131, 132 (minor references)

3.139-149 (incl. 140, 142 on Polykrates): after Polykrates: the Persian conquest of Samos

4.151-152: Kolaios of Samos

3.139-149: after Polykrates: Maiandrios and Syloson

4.138: Aiakes, son of Syloson / nephew of Polykrates, tyrant of Samos

5.112: free Samian success off Cyprus

6.13-14, 25: Samians turn traitor & Aiakes reinstated

8.85: Theomestor made tyrant of Samos in return for services to Persians at Salamis

8.130: Samos used as base

9.90-92, 99, 103: Samos liberated from Persian control

### **II. Peisistratos, the Peisistratids and Athens**

Hdt I.59-64

AP 13-17