

CLS 3210W-01 (HUM) (WI)
Spring 2017
Lentz Hall 220
TR 2:20 - 4:00 PM

D. Ben DeSmidt (LH 215; Phone: x5954; E-mail: ddesmidt@carthage.edu)

Course Description and Expectations

This course will explore the work of Herodotus, a Greek writer who has been called “the Father of History.” Herodotus was born in Halicarnassus (in modern-day Turkey) and lived c. 484–c.425 BCE. His single book *The History*, so called from the ancient Greek *ἱστορία/historia* or “inquiry,” examined the origins and events of the Greco-Persian Wars of the early 5th century BCE. Herodotus’ method of “inquiry,” which included critical analysis of sources, interviews of eyewitnesses, and first-hand examination of documents and sites, and then his documentation of these inquiries into straightforward prose, demonstrated a break from prior tradition in which accounts of past events tended to be poetic and mythology-steeped.

Participants will read all nine books of Herodotus’ *History* from start to finish to gain a full sense of the work.

This will be an interinstitutional course connected with two initiatives sponsored by the [Center for Hellenic Studies](#), a research institute based in Washington D.C.: [Sunoikisis](#) and [Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom](#), which is a joint venture with the [Council of Independent Colleges](#). This course will involve faculty members and students from seven colleges and universities as well as independent learners from around the country and the world.

Course text

Herodotus, *The History* (trans. Grene), University of Chicago Press, 1987 (ISBN 0226327728).

Evaluation

Class participation:	30%
Weekly writing	40%
Final paper	30%

Week 2 February 2—8

Reading: Herodotus Book 1

Common Session 1A (Thursday, February 2, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 1

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 1

Common Session 1B (Tuesday, January 7, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 1

Week 3 February 9—15

Reading: Herodotus Book 2

Common Session 2A (Thursday, February 9, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 2

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 2

Common Session 2B (Tuesday, February 14, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 2

Week 4 February 16—22

Reading: Herodotus Book 3

Common Session 3A (Thursday, February 16, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 3

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 3

Common Session 3B (Tuesday, February 21, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 3

Week 5 February 23—March 1

Reading: Herodotus Book 4

Common Session 4A (Thursday, February 23, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 4

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 4

Common Session 4B (Tuesday, February 28, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 4

Week 6 March 2—[Break]—March 22

Reading: Herodotus Book 5

Common Session 5A (Thursday, March 2, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 5

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 5

Midterm Break: March 3—March 19

Common Session 5B (Tuesday, March 21, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 5

Week 7 March 23—29

Reading: Herodotus Book 6

Common Session 6A (Thursday, March 23, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 6

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 6

Common Session 6B (Tuesday, March 28, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 6

Week 8 March 30—April 5

Reading: Herodotus Book 7

Common Session 7A (Thursday, March 30, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 7

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 7

Common Session 7B (Tuesday, April 4, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 7

Week 9 April 6—12

Reading: Herodotus Book 8

Common Session 8A (Thursday, April 6, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 8

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 8

Common Session 8B (Tuesday, April 11, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 8

Week 10 April 13—19

Reading: Herodotus Book 9

Common Session 9A (Thursday, April 13, 7-7:30pm ET): Context for Book 9

Weekly Assignment: Discuss and write about Book 9

Common Session 9B (Tuesday, April 18, 7-7:30pm ET): Reports on Book 9

Possible Final Reflection Common Session on Thursday, April 20, 7-7:30 pm.