

GREEK AND ROMAN CIVILIZATION
MODULE GC202
THUCYDIDES, ARISTOPHANES, AND THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

AUTUMN REPEAT ASSIGNMENTS 2019

**DEADLINE FOR ASSIGNMENTS 1 & 2:
Friday 9 August 2019 at 5:00 pm**

TWO COPIES of each essay are to be submitted **with cover sheet** to the Departmental Office. Length: **2500 words**. **Note: You must include a precise word-count at the end of your assignment.**

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Assignment 1: Explain Thucydides' understanding of what caused the Peloponnesian War of 431 BC as set out in his *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

Details of assignment:

Your first written assignment is **compulsory**, and is worth **50% of the total mark** for this module. The usual rules apply for late submission: ten percentage points will be deducted from the mark awarded for this assignment for the first week (or part thereof) that the assignment is submitted beyond the due date. An assignment submitted more than one week late will not be accepted, unless an extension has been granted **in advance** by the Head of Department.

Select Bibliography

Source Material

In general, see **Thucydides**, *Peloponnesian War* 1.14-146 but especially 1.24-65 (Causes and disputes) 1.66-88 (Declaration of war), 1.139-146 (Spartan Ultimatum and the Megarian decree). Read the above sections thoroughly. Also useful in considering the causes is **Aristophanes**, *Acharnians* lines 496-556. See also Aristophanes, *Peace* lines 601-648. See also **Plutarch**, *Life of Pericles*, chs. 29-33.

Secondary Literature

In the secondary literature, there are differing views on the causes and inevitability of the war. The following contain useful contributions:

- Andrewes, A., 'Thucydides on the causes of the war', *Classical Quarterly*, 53, (1959) pp. 223-239. **Online at Jstor**
- Cawkwell, G., *Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War*, London: Routledge, 1997. **See chapter 2. Full Text Online through Library Catalogue**
- De Ste Croix, G., *The Origins of the Peloponnesian War*, London: Duckworth, 1972. **See pp. 50-63. On Moodle.** There are two copies of the book on 2 day-loan.
- Huxley, G.L., 'Thucydides on the growth of Athenian power', *Proceedings of the R.I.A.*, Volume 83C, Number 6, (1983), pp. 191-204. **Online at Jstor**
- Kagan, D., *The Outbreak of the Peloponnesian War*, Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press, 1969. **See chs. 19 and 20. Full Text Online through Library Catalogue**
- Kallet, L., 'The Pentecontaetia', in Balot, R.K, Forsdyke, S., and Foster, E., *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*, Oxford: OUP, 2017, **ch.3. On Moodle**
- Lazenby, J.F., *The Peloponnesian War: A Military Study*, London: Routledge, 2004. **See ch. 2. Full Text Online through Library Catalogue**

- Lendon, J.E., ‘Athens and Sparta and the Coming of the Peloponnesian War’, in Samons, L.J., *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Pericles*, Cambridge: CUP, 2007, pp. 258-281. **Full Text Online through Library Catalogue**
- MacDonald, B.R., ‘The Megarian Decree’, *Historia*, 32, No. 4, (1983) pp. 385-410. **Online at Jstor**
- McDowell, D., *Aristophanes and Athens*, Oxford: OUP, 1995. **See ch. 4. On Moodle.**
- Powell, A., ‘Athens’ Difficulty, Sparta’s Opportunity: Causation and the Peloponnesian War’, *L’antiquité classique*, Tome 49, 1980. pp. 87-114. **Online at Jstor**
- Rhodes, P.J., ‘Thucydides on the causes of the Peloponnesian War’, *Hermes*, 115, (1987) pp. 154–165. **Online at Jstor**
- Robinson, E.W., ‘Thucydides on the Causes and Outbreak of the Peloponnesian War’, in Balot, R.K., Forsdyke, S., and Foster, E., *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*, Oxford: OUP, 2017, **ch. 6. On Moodle**
- Sealey, R., ‘The Causes of the Peloponnesian War’, *Classical Philology*, 70 (1975), pp. 89-109. **Online at Jstor**
- Tannenbaum, R.F., ‘Who started the Peloponnesian War?’ *Arion*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (1975), pp. 533-546. **Online at Jstor**

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Assignment 2: How important was Nicias in the failure of the Sicilian Expedition, and how important was the defeat there for the eventual outcome of the Peloponnesian War in 404 BC?

Details of assignment:

Your second written assignment is **compulsory**, and is worth **50% of the total mark** for this module. The usual rules apply for late submission: ten percentage points will be deducted from the mark awarded for this assignment for the first week (or part thereof) that the assignment is submitted beyond the due date. An assignment submitted more than one week late will not be accepted, unless an extension has been granted **in advance** by the Head of Department.

Select Bibliography

Source Material

- Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, bks. 6-8. **Module Textbook**
- Plutarch, *Lives of Alcibiades and Nicias*. **Multiple online versions**

Secondary Literature

- Buckley, T., *Aspects of Greek History*, London: Routledge, 2010². **See chs. 21-23. An Electronic Book**
- Connor, W.R., *Thucydides*, Princeton: PUP, 1984. **See chs. 6-7. An Electronic Book**
- Greenwood, E., ‘Thucydides on the Sicilian Expedition’ in Balot, R.K., Forsdyke, S., and Foster, E., (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*, Oxford: OUP, 2017, pp. 161-177. **On Moodle**
- Kagan, D., *The Peace of Nicias and the Sicilian Expedition*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1981. **See chs. 7-11. An Electronic Book**
- Kallet, L., *Money and the Corrosion of Power in Thucydides: The Sicilian Expedition and its Aftermath*, Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2002. **Read online reviews**
- Lazenby, J.F., *The Peloponnesian War: A Military Study*, London: Routledge, 2004. **See chs. 8-12. An Electronic Book**

- Liebeschuetz, W., 'Thucydides and the Sicilian Expedition' *Historia*, 17 (1968) 289-306. **Online at Jstor**
- Rhodes, P., *Alcibiades: Athenian Playboy, General and Traitor*, Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2011. **Read online reviews**
- Rood, T., 'Thucydides, Sicily, and the Defeat of Athens', *KTÈMA Civilisations de l'Orient, de la Grèce et de Rome antiques*, Université de Strasbourg, 2017, 42, pp.19-39. Online at: <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01670082/document>
- Stahl, H.-P., 'Speeches and Course of Events in Books Six and Seven of Thucydides, in Stadter, P., *The Speeches in Thucydides*, North Carolina: UNCP, 1973, pp. 60-77.
- Tritle, L., *A New History of the Peloponnesian War*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. **See chs. 8-12. An Electronic Book**
- Westlake, 'Nicias in Thucydides', *The Classical Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 1/2 (Jan. - Apr., 1941), pp. 58-65. **Online at Jstor**
- Wolpert, A., 'Thucydides on the Four Hundred and the Fall of Athens', in Balot, R.K., Forsdyke, S., and Foster, E., (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*, Oxford: OUP, 2017, pp. 179-191. **On Moodle**
- Zagorin, P., *Thucydides: An Introduction for the Common Reader*, Princeton: PUP, 2005. **See chs. 6-7 An Electronic Book**