Greek 9903A: Elegy, Epic, and the Archaic Greek Polis

This course has a two-fold objective. First, students will be introduced to the social, historical, and ideological developments of the polis in Ancient Greece. Second, we will analyze the relationship between the polis and early Greek poetry. Special attention will be given to the Elegaic poetry of Tyrtaeus, Theognis, and Solon, and the relationship of this poetry to the Epic tradition of Homer and Hesiod. Hence, through close readings of early Greek poetry within broader poetic and political contexts, students may come to gain a deeper appreciation of the complex role Greek poetry plays in both the history and historiography of Archaic Greece.

Instructor:
Instructor: Charles H. Stocking
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office: 3207 Lawson Hall
office hours: Wednesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment
Date and time of course: Mondays, 2:30-5:30 pm

GRADE ASSESSMENT:
Class Participation/Preparation: 10%
Class Presentation 10%
Midterm 20%
Final 30%
Research Paper 30%

Plagiarism
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

UWO Accessibility Policy
Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: http://accessibility.uwo.ca/

Mental Health
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Week 1, Sept. 12th- Historiography of the Polis and Archaic Greek Poetry, Discourses of “Development,” “Rise,” and “Discovery”
Secondary Readings (To be prepared before our first class):

Vlassopoulos, K. “An Archaeology of Discourses,” *Unthinking the Greek Polis*, pp. 11-66


Week 2, Sept. 19th- Homer, Politics, and the Polis.
Primary Readings:
*Iliad* 4.1-69
*Iliad* 18. 428- 560

Secondary Readings:

Week 3, Sept. 26th: Hesiod, Justice, and the Polis.
Primary Readings:
Hesiod, *Works and Days* 1-41, 106-201

Secondary Readings:

Week 4, Oct. 3rd- Sparta, Tyrtaeus, and the Contexts of Elegy.
Primary Readings:
Tyrtaeus 4
Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus* (Selections)

Secondary Readings:

Week 5, Oct. 10th- Thanks Giving

Week 6 Oct. 17th- Midterm

Week 7- Oct. 24th- Tyrtaeus and the Poetics of War and Death.
Primary Readings:
Tyrtaeus 10, 11, 12


Week 8, Oct. 31st- Solon and Archaic Athens.
Primary Readings:
Solon 34, 36, 37
Aristotle, Athenaios Politeia (Selections)

Secondary Readings


Week 9, Nov. 7th- Solon and the Poetry of Political Discourse.
Primary Readings:
Solon 4, 13

Secondary Readings:
Week 10, Nov. 14th - Theognidea- Poetry, Authorship, and Authority in the Polis
Primary Readings:


Week 11, Nov. 21st- Theognidea, Human and Divine Politics
Primary Readings:


Week 12 Nov. 28th and Week 13 Dec. 5th- In Class Presentations.