

## GK 3100A ANCIENT GREEK PROSE SELECTIONS: Athenian Funeral Orations

**Course Location:** Lawson Hall 3220  
**Course Times:** M W F 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
**Instructor:** Dr. Bernd Steinbock  
**Email:** bsteinbo@uwo.ca  
**Office:** Lawson Hall 3210  
**Office Hours:** M 12:30-1:30 pm or by appointment  
**Course Website:** owl.uwo.ca



White-ground lekythos (oil flask), attributed to the Vouni Painter, with a possible representation of public graves; ca. 460-450 BC. Height: 42.4 cm

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What was it like to be an Athenian? The genre of the *logos epitaphios*, the Athenian funeral oration, delivered over the bones of the war dead by the city's leading statesman, is arguably one of our best sources for the Athenians' view of themselves and their city's glorious past. The central text for this class will be Lysias' *epitaphios* for those who fell during the Corinthian War (c. 391 BC), but we will also read parts of Demosthenes' funeral oration for the fallen at Chaeronea (338 BC), Hyperides' funeral oration for the dead of the Lamian War (322 BC), and the spoof funeral oration in Plato's *Menexenus* (c. 386 BC), as time permits.

By thoroughly analyzing and translating the original Greek, students will consolidate their understanding of Ancient Greek grammar and syntax. Students will also be introduced to the main concepts of classical rhetoric and gain familiarity with typical features of epideictic orations. Topics discussed will include the civic and religious aspects of the Athenian state funeral ceremony, the archaeological evidence for the public funeral monuments, the concepts of Athenian democratic ideology and collective memory. Special emphasis will be given to the historical distortions found in these idealized versions of the Athenian past.

**3 lecture hours, 0.5 course**

### PREREQUISITES:

Greek 2000 or permission of the instructor.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course successful students will consolidate their knowledge of the elements of Greek grammar and syntax and develop an ability to read Greek prose texts. For this purpose we will spend most of our time translating and analyzing in great detail passages from selected Athenian public funeral orations, which involves close attention to all aspects of the language. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to

- recognize and explain the use of aspects of advanced Greek grammar and syntax;
- translate prose texts sensitively and accurately and comment on their subject-matter from linguistic, stylistic, literary and thematic perspectives where appropriate.

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In this course students will also learn key elements of classical rhetoric and improve their ability to recite short passages from a *logos epitaphios* in Greek. Successful students will have improved their ability

- to recognize the syntactic and idiomatic idiosyncrasies of Ancient Greek.
- to comprehend the nuances of an Greek oratorical text and convey them appropriately into grammatically correct English.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES / TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:**

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

- a knowledge of aspects of advanced Greek grammar and syntax
- an increased ability to translate prose texts accurately and sensitively;
- a knowledge of the linguistic, stylistic, literary and thematic issues pertaining to the given texts.

On successful completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- demonstrate a range of subject-specific skills, including an ability to analyze Greek prose texts critically and produce an accurate translation of those texts.
- demonstrate a range of transferable skills, including organisation of personal study and participation in oral discussion in class.

**YOUR INSTRUCTOR:**

I am Dr. Bernd Steinbock and will be your instructor for this course. After studying Latin, Greek and History in Germany, my native country, I earned my PhD at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I have been at Western since 2005 and currently serve as Undergraduate Chair in the Department of Classical Studies. If you have any questions about the courses and programs we offer, please come and talk to me either after class or during my office hours.

I teach Classical Studies and ancient Greek language courses on all levels. My teaching reflects my research interests, which lie at the point where history and literary texts intersect. I am particularly interested in how people in the ancient world viewed their own past, what this past meant to them, and how it affected their political decision-making. My book *Social Memory in Athenian Public Discourse: Uses and Meanings of the Past* engages these issues.

In 2016 my colleague Dr. Pratt and I led 19 Western students on an adventure-packed study tour to the most fascinating sites of the ancient Greek world. We explored Athens, Sparta, and Mycenae, raced at Olympia, consulted the oracle at Delphi and walked over the battlefields at Marathon and Thermopylae. If you have been to any of these places or are planning to join the next Study Tours to Italy (2018) and Greece (2019), come and chat with me.



**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

Rydberg-Cox, Jeffrey A. (ed.), *Lysias: Selected Speeches 1,2,3,4 and 24*. Newburyport: Focus Publishing, 2003 (ISBN 1585100293).

Smyth, Herbert Weir. *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956 (ISBN 9780674362505).

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS:**

Liddell and Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1945 (ISBN 0199102066). (also available online)

For additional texts see the course website at **OWL**

### EVALUATION:

1. Preparation and Participation: 20%

In this course we will consolidate your knowledge of the elements of Greek grammar and syntax and develop an ability to read Greek prose texts. For this purpose we will spend most of our time translating and analyzing in great detail passages from various Athenian *logoi epitaphioi*. As homework students are expected to **fully prepare** about one page of our primary text. Preparation entails **looking up unfamiliar words and forms**, being able to **explain the workings of the syntax** (e.g. why does this noun appear in the genitive or what is the function of that participle?) and **producing a precise translation**. At the beginning of each class we will do a quick review of the passage covered in the previous class, by having one student read the Greek and provide a fluid translation. Students are expected to **participate fully** in the class, both in terms of completing assignments and in terms of listening attentively and participating in class discussions (20% of final mark). Those who choose not to participate and/or complete assignments will receive lesser grades than those who fulfill all requirements. **Regular attendance and preparation** for each class is **absolutely necessary** for success in this course.

2. Weekly Quizzes: 15%

Students will study one page of **irregular verb forms** in North and Hillard (available on OWL) per week. **Every Friday** there will be a short **quiz** testing students' knowledge of these irregular verb forms and a few other forms encountered in that week's readings (15% of final mark).

3. Stylistic Analysis and Recitation: 15% [November 27 and December 8]

To enhance our understanding of Greek prose style, every student will select a short passage (ca. 100 words) of one of the *epitaphioi* and provide a stylistic analysis, i.e. explain its line of argument and identify rhetorical figures (see Smyth, pp. 671-683) and other interesting features (10%). Each student will memorize his/her short passage and appropriately recite it in class at the end of the term (5%).

4. Midterm Exam: 20% [October 20]

In the midterm exam students will have to translate and grammatically analyse sections from the funeral orations which have been covered in class before. It will also feature a short sight reading passage from a speech of this genre.

5. Final Examination: 30% [exam period in December]

In the (cumulative) final exam students will have to translate and grammatically analyse sections from the funeral orations which have been covered in class before. It will also feature a short sight reading passage from a speech of this genre.

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up test. If you miss a test, **you must contact me within 48 hours** to arrange a make-up test. If you do not, **the grade of F will stand**.

2. **Appropriate written documentation is required for all missed tests**. If you miss a test **due to illness**, you must obtain supporting documentation (i.e. a medical note) and then submit it to the **Academic Counselling Office** of your home faculty.

3. Students should note that missed quizzes will be counted as zeroes. Make-ups will be granted **only** if you contact the instructor in advance or within 24 hours **and** provide proof of illness or a personal crisis. The make-up will be scheduled as soon as possible after the missed quiz or assignment, usually before the next class.

4. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for material they have missed. Students are encouraged to form study groups in order to assist each other in preparing for tests and for discussion of assigned readings.

5. There is no extra credit in this course; there will be no re-weighting of the course components.

### CLASS COMMUNICATION:

Class will be notified of any class cancellations, room changes and other special announcements via the course website on OWL.

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**NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES:** You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

**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).

**POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf)]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.**

**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.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**SYLLABUS:** for a detailed syllabus visit the course website at: <http://owl.uwo.ca>

Week	Date	#	Tests	Reading Assignment
	F Sept 8	1		
Week 1	M Sept 11	2		Lysias 2.1-3
	W Sept 13	3		Lysias 2.4-6
	F Sept 15	4	Quiz 1	Lysias 2.7-10
Week 2	M Sept 18	5		Lysias 2.11-16
	W Sept 20	6		Lysias 2.17-22
	F Sept 22	7	Quiz 2	Lysias 2.23-26
Week 3	M Sept 25	8		Lysias 2.27-33
	W Sept 27	9		Lysias 2.34-38
	F Sept 29	10	Quiz 3	Lysias 2.39-43
Week 4	M Oct 2	11		Lysias 2.44-47
	W Oct 4	12		Lysias 2.48-53
	F Oct 6	13	Quiz 4	Lysias 2.54-60
Week 5	<b>M Oct 9</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
	<b>W Oct 11</b>		<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	
	<b>F Oct 13</b>		<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	
Week 6	M Oct 16	14		Lysias 2.61-66
	W Oct 18	15		Lysias 2.67-69
	F Oct 20		<b>Midterm 1</b>	
Week 7	M Oct 23	16		Lysias 2.70-76
	W Oct 25	17		Lysias 2.77-81
	F Oct 27	18	Quiz 5	TBA

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Week 8	M Oct 30	19		TBA
	W Nov 1	20		TBA
	F Nov 3	21	Quiz 6	TBA
Week 9	M Nov 6	22		TBA
	W Nov 8	23		TBA
	F Nov 9	24	Quiz 7	TBA
Week 10	M Nov 13	25		TBA
	W Nov 15	26		TBA
	F Nov 17	27	Quiz 8	TBA
Week 11	M Nov 20	28		TBA
	W Nov 22	29		TBA
	F Nov 24	30	Quiz 9	TBA
Week 12	M Nov 27	31	<b>Stylistic Analysis due</b>	TBA
	W Nov 29	32		TBA
	F Dec 1		Quiz 10	TBA
Week 13	M Dec 4	33		TBA
	W Dec 6	34		TBA
	F Dec 8	35	<b>Recitation</b>	
	Exam Period		<b>Final Exam</b>	
			<b><i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i></b>	

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision if necessary