History of Ancient Greece
Institute for the Study of Western Civilization
Week 1: “What’s So Great About the Greeks?”
October 9, 2019
EDITH HALL ON THE GREEK MIRACLE

Between 800 and 300 BC, people who spoke Greek made a rapid series of intellectual discoveries that propelled the Mediterranean world to a new level of civilization.

Ten characteristics that distinguish Ancient Greece

1. Seagoing (like frogs around the pond), swimmers and divers
2. Suspicious of authority (creation of democracy)
3. Individualistic (freedom)
4. Enquiring minds (science)
5. Openness to other culture (travel)
6. Articulate (special nature of Greek language) language, articulate

The Greeks themselves believed that they were incomparable at talking. They often said that it was this that made them superior to all “barbarians,” a word that originally meant “people who don’t speak Greek but speak unintelligibly.” Odysseus the best talker of them all rhetoric & poetry.

7. Sense of humor. wit
8. Competitive, passion for excellence (Olympics)
9. Value of beauty Adonis Venus, best athlete should also be the most beautiful.
10 Pursuit of pleasure, joy, fun.
1. HUMAN BEINGS ARE SPECIAL.
Like Gods, but not Gods.
"Man is the measure of all things."

Protagoras

490-420 BC
1. HUMAN BEINGS ARE SPECIAL.
Like Gods, but not Gods.
2. HUMAN BEINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
2. HUMAN BEINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
3. HUMAN BEINGS ARE SOCIAL.

Aristotle: “The human being is a social animal.”
4. HUMAN BEINGS ARE FREE.
THE LANGUAGE
1. Rhetoric
2. Philosophy
3. Theater
What We Owe the Greeks…

30% of our language is Greek

mythology

philosophy

politics

drama

mathematics

medicine

economy

music
What We Owe the Greeks…

30% of our language is Greek
Dynamic dialogue is fantastic with knowledge, catastrophic without.

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music
dynamic

dialogue

is

fantastic

knowledge

Catastrophic
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mythology
You can hardly live in Western civilization without encountering Greek myth.

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Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Beware Greeks Bearing Gifts

Achilles' Heel

The Labors of Hercules

Stygian Darkness

Pandora's Box

Siren Song

Cupid's Dart

Sisyphean Task

Pregnant with Thought

Bearing the weight of the world on one's shoulders

Music to soothe a savage breast (or beast)
BRITANNIA between SCYLLA & CHARYBDIS.

or... The Vessel of the Constitution, steered clear of the Rock of Democracy, and the Whirlpool of Arbitrary Power...

SHARKS; Dogs of Scylla.
Cupid’s Dart

A classic love story.
Achilles’ Heel
Greek Siren
Zeus

Pregnant with Thought
or
A terrible Headache
Birth of Athena
Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts

Model of Trojan Horse
IT CAN'T HURT TO OPEN ONE LITTLE ATTACHMENT, CAN IT?..
Sisyphus
Narcissus in ancient fresco

ca. 45-79 CE

Pompeii
"No, you hang up first."
Lesser Known Greek Gods

HEYLOOKADES

HEYLOOKADES: GODDESS OF IMPLANTS
30% of our language is Greek
Dynamic dialogue is fantastic with knowledge, catastrophic without.

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You can hardly live in Western civilization without encountering Greek myth.

**philosophy**
Plato is the foundation of ontology, phenomenology, metaphysics, gnosis, ethics, aesthetics

**politics**

**drama**

**mathematics**

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Socrates
d. 399 BCE

Plato
c. 427-347 BCE
polis
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polis, democracy, oligarchy, aristocracy, tyranny, demagoguery, strategy, liberty, criminology

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Solon

Law Reformer after Draco
ca. 638 BCE – 558 BCE
Ostraka of exile  (to “ostracize”)
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Tragedy, comedy, theater, dialogue, catharsis, Aeschylus, Sophokles, Euripides

mathematics

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Theater of Dionysus, Athens

Thursday October 10, 2019
Acropolis Plan of Ancient Athens
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Greek Muses, Nine Daughters of Zeus and Memory (*Mnemosyne*)

- Calliope
- Clio
- Urania
- Terpsichore
- Euterpe
- Polyhymnia
- Thalia
- Erato
- Melpomene

**Poetry**  
- Epic Poetry  
- History  
- Astronomy  
- Dance  
- Lyric Poetry  
- Sacred Poetry  
- Comedy  
- Love Poetry  
- Tragedy

Thursday October 10, 2019
Museum, House of the Muses

Munich Glyptothek Museum

Thursday October 10, 2019
Greek Muses in Berlin Altes Museum

Thursday October 10, 2019
Greek Muses, Nine Daughters of Zeus and Memory (*Mnemosyne*)

- Calliope
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**Poetry**

- Epic
- History
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- Lyric Poetry

**Astronomy**

- Sacred Poetry
- Comedy
- Love Poetry
- Tragedy
Melpomene
Muse of Tragedy
Clio
Muse of History
Museums and Libraries of Alexandria
21 Actually, Latin was only one of a number of Italic dialects (among which were Oscan and Umbrian), and some time passed before Latin won out over the other dialects in Italy. Similarly, among the Greeks there were a number of dialects (Aeolic, Ionic, Doric).
The Bronze Age Charioteers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition Phase</th>
<th>Neolithic Age</th>
<th>Bronze Age</th>
<th>Metal Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000 B.C.E.</td>
<td>8000 B.C.E.</td>
<td>6000 B.C.E.</td>
<td>4000 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8500 Domestication of sheep</td>
<td>7500–6500 Domestication of pigs, goats, cattle</td>
<td>5600 Beans domesticated</td>
<td>4000–3000 Age of innovation in the Middle East: introduction of writing, metalworking, wheel, plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8500–5000 Development of farming in the Middle East</td>
<td>7000 Full-fledged town at Jericho</td>
<td>5000–2000 Yangshao culture in north China</td>
<td>c. 1766 Emergence of Shang kingdom in China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6250–5400 Çatal Hüyük at its peak</td>
<td>6250–5400 Çatal Hüyük at its peak</td>
<td>5000 Domestication of maize (corn)</td>
<td>3500 Llama domesticated</td>
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<td>3500–2350 Civilization of Sumer</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>c. 3100 Rise of Egyptian civilization</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2500–1500 Indus valley civilization in south Asia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Bronze Age, 3000 BC
Origin and Diffusion of Indo-European Language

Charioteers
THE HORSE, THE WHEEL & LANGUAGE

by David W. Anthony

THE HORSE
THE WHEEL
AND LANGUAGE

HOW BRONZE-AGE RIDERS FROM THE EURASIAN STEPPES SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD

DAVID W. ANTHONY
routes, rather than Helen may have caused a Trojan
Mycenae
Settled circa 2000 BC by Indo-European Invaders who settled down.

The Age of Heroes
1600-1100 BC
The Mycenaean Age
The Bronze Age collapse is a transition in the Aegean Region, and the Eastern Mediterranean from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age that historians, such as M. Liverani, S. Richard, Robert Drews, Frank J. Yurco, Amos Nur, Leonard R. Palmer, and others, believe was violent, sudden and culturally disruptive. The palace economy of the Aegean Region and Anatolia which characterised the Late Bronze Age was replaced, after a hiatus, by the isolated village cultures of the Greek Dark Ages. In the first phase of this period, almost every city between Pylos and Gaza was violently destroyed, and often left unoccupied thereafter: examples include Hattusa, Mycenae, and Ugarit.
The Island of Delos off the Ionian coast of Asia Minor
Homer in Smyrna, 800 BC-750 BC
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Homer in Smyrna, 800 BC-750 BC
The so-called **Cup of Nestor** from Pithekoussai is a clay drinking cup that was found by Giorgio Buchner in 1954 at excavations in a grave in the ancient Greek site of Pithekoussai on the island of Ischia in Italy. Pithekoussai was one of the earliest Greek colonies in the West. The cup is dated to the Geometric Period (c.750-700 BC) and is believed to have been originally manufactured in Rhodes. It is now kept in the Villa Arbusto museum in the village of Lacco Ameno, Ischia, Italy.
The Pithekoussai Cup from Ischia, c. 750 BC
One of the earliest known examples of Greek alphabet

“Nestor’s cup I am, good to drink from.
Whoever drinks this cup empty, straightaway the desire of beautiful-crowned Aphrodite will seize.”
750 BC
one of earliest known examples of Greek alphabet just after Greeks adopt Phoenician phonic alphabetic writing spelling is archaic goes from right to left
Nestor’s Cup, 750 BC

The inscription has been seen as a reference to the *Iliad*. Barry B. Powell calls it "Europe’s first literary allusion."

a milestone in the evolution of the Western Mind

Here is the first work of literature created with writing.

Thus now possible to allude to this work well known and quotable……

By the time of Virgil, a whole work of literature can be created as one giant allusion (to Homer)
“A CUP BETTER THAN NESTOR’S”

The inscription (restored in the lower half of the frame) on a vase fragment found at Ischia, an island off Naples, is one of the earliest known examples of the Greek alphabet, dating to the eighth century B.C. shortly after Greeks
HOMER

THE ILIAD
Winner of The Academy of American Poets 1991 London Translation Award
TRANSLATED BY ROBERT FAGLES
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY BERNARD KNOX

THE ODYSSEY
One of the ten “Best Books of 1995”—Time
TRANSLATED BY ROBERT FAGLES
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Thursday October 10, 2019
500 BC THE PERSIAN THREAT

Celtic expansion
- Early Celtic Area
- Halstatt culture c 800 BC
- Celtic expansion 600 to 450 BC
- Celtic max expansion c 250 BC
- Roman territory c 250 BC
ATHENS GOLDEN AGE 500-400 BC
Age of Sophocles
496 - 406
Sophocles born 6 years before Marathon.
Sophocles

Pericles

Thucydides

Between Athens’s most sacred and central locations, the Acropolis lay the Agora, the heart of the city’s public life. Amid the law courts, markets, and public buildings, men debated the issues of the day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KINGS - DATES</th>
<th>SITES</th>
<th>ARCHITECTURE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th century B.C.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CYRUS II (559-539) Founder of the Achaemenid Dynasty</td>
<td>MASJID-I-SULAIMAN PASARGADAE</td>
<td>Terrace Terrace</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMBYSES II (529-521)</td>
<td>PASARGADAE PASARGADAE PASARGADAE</td>
<td>Palace Tomb of Cyrus Fire Altars</td>
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<tr>
<td>DARIUS I (521-485)</td>
<td>SUSA PERSEPOLIS</td>
<td>Palace with Apadana Palace: Terrace, Tahtara, Tripylon, Apadana, Hall of 99 Columns Court with 4 Porticoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th century B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>XERXES I (485-465)</td>
<td>HAMADAN PERSEPOLIS</td>
<td>Tomb of Darius Later Tombs of Xerxes I, Artaxerxes I and Darius II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTAXERXES I (465-424)</td>
<td>PERSEPOLIS BABYLON</td>
<td>Palace: Gate-House Completion of Apadana Unfinished Portico Throne Hall, Hadish, Harem, Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XERXES II (424)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Palace: Completion of Throne Hall Palace: Apadana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARIUS II (424-404)</td>
<td>SUSA</td>
<td>Small Palace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th century B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTAXERXES II (404-358)</td>
<td>SUSA</td>
<td>Reconstruction of Apadana Royal Tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTAXERXES III (358-338)</td>
<td>PERSEPOLIS</td>
<td>Unfinished Palace Tombs of Artaxerxes II and Artaxerxes III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARSES (358-335)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DARIUS III CODOMANNUS (335-330)</td>
<td>PERSEPOLIS</td>
<td>Tomb of Darius III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334 - Invasion of Persia by Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td>330 - Burning of Persepolis Murder of Darius III</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of the Achaemenians</td>
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Lady of Auxerre
(Kore of Auxerre)
Around 650 – 625 BC
Louvre
The Getty Kouros

Thursday October 10, 2019
The Getty Kouros

A kouros is a statue of a standing nude youth that did not represent any one individual youth but the idea of youth. Used in Archaic Greece as both a dedication to the gods in sanctuaries and as a grave monument, the standard kouros stood with his left foot forward, arms at his sides, looking straight ahead.
In a society that emphasized youth and male beauty, the artistic manifestation of this world view was the kouros. Indeed, when the poet Simonides wrote about arete in the late 500s, he used a metaphor seemingly drawn from the kouros: "In hand and foot and mind alike foursquare/fashioned without flaw."
580 BC
Delphi
Kleobis and Biton
(identified by inscriptions on the base)
The statue of the "Piraeus Apollo" in the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus (Athens). This is an archaic-style bronze (ranking among the very few such bronzes survived) dating from the 6th century BC.
Phidias and the Golden Age of Greek Sculpture

500-400 BC
Phidias and the sculpture of the Parthenon Frieze
Head of Athena in the style of Phidias, Roman copy now in National Archaeological Museum Athens
The Golden Age in Marble 450 BC

The Kassel (Ger) Apollo Phidias 450 BC
THE BRONZES of RIACE 450 BC, found 1972

THE GOLDEN AGE IN BRONZE 450 BC
THE BRONZES of RIACE 450 BC, found 1972

THE GOLDEN AGE IN BRONZE 450 BC
Polykleitos
450-400 BC
Golden Age
Doryphoros,
The Spear
Bearer
Naples
National
Archaeological
Museum
Polykleitos
450-400 BC
Golden Age
Doryphoros,
The Spear
Bearer
Naples
National
Archaeological
Museum
Praxiteles
400-350BC
The Louvre Apollo
The Victorious Youth, Greek Bronze, 300 BC
The Age of Alexander
Alexander the Great, July 20, 356 to June 10, 323 BC
The Victorious Youth, Greek Bronze, 300 BC
The Age of Alexander
A naked youth stands with his weight on his right leg, crowning himself with a wreath, probably olive. The olive wreath was the prize for a victor in the Olympic Games and identifies this youth as a victorious athlete. The eyes of the figure were originally inlaid with colored stone or glass paste.
Gaius Octavius, “Augustus” Sept 23, 63 BC - Aug 19, 14 AD
Hadrian, 76 - 138 A.D., Emperor: 117-138
Landsdowne Hercules
Roman, 125 AD
Lady of Auxerre
(Kore of Auxerre)
Around 650 – 625 BC
Louvre
Ancient Greece: Archaic

How are these korai similar or different from the kouroi?

**Auxerre**, ca. 650–625 BCE. Limestone, 2’ 1 1/2” high.

**Figure 5-10 Peplon Kore**, from the Acropolis, Athens, Greece, ca. 530 BCE. Marble, 4’ high.

Reconstruction of a painted Kore, Archaic style. Glyptothek, Munich

**Acropolis, Athens**, ca. 520–510 BCE. Marble, 1’ 9” high.
The Peplos Kore
530 BC
Acropolis Museum
Athens
Kore
Acropolis Museum
530 BC
Cnidus Aphrodite. Marble, Roman copy after a Greek original of the 4th c.
The Aphrodite of Milos was discovered on 8 April 1820 by a peasant named Yorgos Kentrotas, inside a buried niche within the ancient city ruins of Milos, the current village of Tripiti, on the island of Milos.
Aphrodite of Milo, (Venus de Milo) 100 BC
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