

**HIST 30103 Ancient Historians**  
**Paper 1 • 1000 words**  
**Due February 17 by 5pm**

As we have seen in class, Herodotus includes a large number of ethnographic descriptions of non-Greek or “barbarian” peoples such as the Lydians, Persians, Babylonians, and Egyptians. Herodotus is writing from a Greek perspective, which means that even though he is describing foreigners he reveals a lot about his own culture, customs, and beliefs.

For this assignment, write an ethnography of the Greeks in the manner of Herodotus. Your ethnography must be based on what we can learn about the Greeks from Herodotus, especially what he reveals, often indirectly, in his ethnographies of other peoples and in various stray remarks about foreign customs.

For each custom or trait of the Greeks, you must provide a citation of the passage of Herodotus that it is based on. Cite by book and chapter number, e.g. 1.75. Look to how Herodotus organizes his ethnographies for ideas about how you should structure yours. You should not be trying to determine how accurate Herodotus is or what biases he may have held. The purpose of this paper is to better understand how ancient historians understand other cultures and what this can reveal about their own. Do not be judgmental, and remember, ancient historians have different standards than modern historians. You are to limit your analysis to the text of Herodotus – DO NOT look at modern scholarship or any other sources including AI. I want to read what you have to say, not what someone else has to say. Looking at or using outside sources will result in an automatic F on the assignment.

Use Times New Roman or a similar serif font, double-spaced, with 1” margins all around. Don’t forget to put a page number at the bottom of each page. Papers are due on February 17 by 5 pm. Upload your paper as a .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf attachment on Blackboard. Late papers will not be accepted except in cases of documented emergencies.