

**HIST 4113 Archaic Greece**  
**Paper 2 (3200-3600 Words)**  
**Due December 7 by 5 pm**

Herodotus famously begins his history by promising to cover the achievements of both the Hellenes (Greeks) and “Barbarians” (or non-Greeks). And despite the fact that he is writing for a Greek audience, he devotes substantial space not only to the deeds of the Barbarians, but also their customs and traditions. For this paper you will analyze the contrast between Herodotus’s barbarians, especially as they are portrayed in the first four books, but also in the later books, and the Greeks, and explain what this shows about how Herodotus perceives what it means to be Greek and what the Greeks can learn from the Barbarians.

Some points you may want to consider:

- What qualities of the barbarians does Herodotus most admire? What does he least like?
- What qualities of the Greeks does Herodotus most admire? What does he least like?
- How does Herodotus portray the Greeks in the context of their individual *poleis*, versus when they are trying to work together?
- Are the leaders of the barbarians portrayed differently than their peoples as a whole?
- In what ways do the Greeks seem to differ the most from the barbarians (or vice versa)? Does Herodotus portray these differences in a positive or negative fashion?
- What do the Greeks seem to value the most? What do the barbarians seem to value the most?
- Does Herodotus ever implicitly or explicitly contrast Greek and barbarian customs, leaders, or soldiers? What does this contrast show?

Based on your analysis, explain how Herodotus uses his depictions and ethnographies of the barbarians to better define what it is to be Greek, what the best qualities of the Greeks are, and what they can still learn. How does Herodotus define “Greek” so as to transcend the individual *polis*? In describing the barbarians, does Herodotus hold a mirror up for his audience?

Make sure to support your arguments with citations of specific passages of the *Histories*. Use direct quotes sparingly and when they will specifically illustrate the point you are trying to make. Paraphrase when you need to, but try to avoid excessive summary. Whenever you quote or paraphrase, be sure to cite the passage in Herodotus. Cite the *Histories* parenthetically by book, chapter, and sentence numbers, e.g. (2.120.3) or (7.15-14). Don’t forget to put a page number at the bottom of each page. Use 1” margins all around and Times New Roman or a similar typeface, double-spaced. Additional formatting guidelines can be found here:

<http://comp.uark.edu/~cmuntz/resources/formatting-guidelines.html>

You are to limit yourself to the text of the *Histories* - do not look at any other sources or scholarship. Doing so will result in an automatic F. Papers are due on December 7 by 5 pm. Email your paper (in Word, Pages, RTF, or PDF formats) to me at [cmuntz@uark.edu](mailto:cmuntz@uark.edu). Late papers will not be accepted except in cases of documented emergencies.