

**HIST 4003 Ancient Greece**  
**Paper 2 (10 pages)**  
**Due November 19 at 9:30 am**

The exact time period when Herodotus was writing his history is unknown. However, based on a handful of references to later events in the *Histories* it seems likely that Herodotus had finished writing by the late 420s. This means that Herodotus was writing and publishing his history during a time when Greece was embroiled in the Archidamian War between Athens and Sparta, the allies of the Persian Wars.

For this assignment you will examine Herodotus' *Histories* in the context of his own time and how the events surrounding his composition shaped his outlook and the messages he has for his audience. While you can use any passages from the *Histories*, focus on the last three books. Use Thucydides 1-5.24 to provide the relevant background material and narrative for the Peloponnesian War. Some questions you might wish to consider:

- What themes are prominent in the *Histories* that might resonate with an audience in the 420s?
- How does Herodotus portray Athens and Sparta during the Persian Wars, and how might this comment on the Peloponnesian War?
- Does Herodotus have anything relevant to say about some of the major issues highlighted in Thucydides, such as justice, *stasis*, or empire?
- Why is Herodotus so reticent about referring to events that took place after 479?
- What lessons does Herodotus want his contemporaries to learn from his *Histories*?

You may also want to look at the handful of references Herodotus does make to events surrounding the Peloponnesian War, and consider how his presentation differs from Thucydides', and why he might have chosen to highlight them in the way he does. These references are at 6.131 (birth of Pericles), 7.137 (a reference to the execution of ambassadors, cf. Thucydides 2.67), 7.233 (the surprise attack on Plataea, cf. Thucydides 2.2-6), and 9.73 (the Spartan treatment of Deceleia in the Archidamian war).

Limit your analysis to the ancient texts themselves – do not look at modern scholarship. I want to read what you have to say, not what someone else has to say.

Use direct quotes sparingly and when they will specifically illustrate the point you are trying to make. Whenever you are quoting, paraphrasing, or simply referring to something an author says cite the particular passage in your paper. Cite Herodotus and Thucydides by book and chapter number; e.g. "As Thucydides says at 3.5..." or "as explained by Herodotus (8.80)" Don't forget to put a page number at the bottom of the page. Papers should be double-spaced, with 1" margins all around. Use Times New Roman or a similar font.

Papers are due on November 19 at the start of class. Electronic submissions will not be accepted unless by prior arrangement. Late papers will not be accepted except in emergencies.