

Syllabus
Greek 210 – Xenophon’s *Education of Cyrus*
Hamilton College
Spring 2015

Syllabus
GREEK 210: Leadership and Xenophon’s *Education of Cyrus*

Spring 2015

Meeting Time: MWF 1-1:50

Classroom: JHSN 209

Instructor: Jesse Weiner (jweiner@hamilton.edu)

Office: Couper 202

Office Hours: MW 10-11AM, 2-3PM; and by appointment

Texts: We will use the online text and commentary of Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia* (*Education of Cyrus*) available through Cyrus’ Paradise. This free resource (for which you will need to register) is available at cyropaedia.org. In addition to the text itself, the platform offers links to dictionaries and grammatical tools, as well as grammatical and thematic notes and commentary.

Course Description and Expectations:

This reading course in Greek literature focuses on Xenophon and his account of the education of Cyrus the Great. While focusing on qualities of leadership and remaining mindful of literary and historical issues pertaining to Xenophon’s text, this class aims primarily to develop the reading skills of intermediate students of Greek. Over the course of the semester we will read from Books 1 and 8 of Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia*. Given the nature of the course, we will primarily focus on translation and grammatical understanding of the text. This class is intended to be students’ first author-based reading course in Attic Greek. While reading from Book 1 early in the course, students will benefit from the aid of the site’s online commentary. While reading from Book 8 towards the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to help develop the site’s commentary.

No English translations are permitted in class. This includes your own. I implore you not to write out translations of the reading assignments to bring to class. While this will likely lead to more oral mistakes in class, I assure you that your Greek has a better chance to improve if you leave the English translation at home.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate and to do so actively. Prepared participation is essential to your grade. Students who have questions or concerns about the course, both with respect to the material and their own progress and performance, should attend my office hours.

Cell phone use is strictly prohibited in the classroom. If your phone rings, I will answer it, which is awkward for all parties involved. No electronic devices should be visible during tests and quizzes. If I see you using such devices during a test or quiz, my most logical conclusion may be that you are violating the Hamilton policy on academic honesty. Don’t cheat.

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Schedule:

There will be no predetermined schedule of reading assignments. This will allow for greater flexibility with the pacing, as it can be difficult to predict which passages may require a bit of extra class time. It is therefore essential to contact the instructor or your classmates in the event of absence in order to obtain reading assignments. On Fridays we will devote a portion of class time to thematic discussion of the *Cyropaedia*, often with assigned English readings.

Important dates:

Feb. 9 – NO CLASS
Feb. 27 – EXAM 1 (in class)
Apr. 17 – EXAM 2 (in class)
May 13 – FINAL EXAM (7-10PM)

Evaluation:

Exam 1 – 15%
Exam 2 – 15%
Final Exam – 20%
Quizzes – 20%
Reading Presentation – 5%
Class Participation/Preparation – 15%
Essay – 10%

Scale:

A+ 100 > A 93 > A- 90 > B+ 87 > B 83 > B- 80 > C+ 77 > C 73 > C- 70 > D+ 67 > D 63 > D- 60 > F

Class Participation/Homework:

Students are expected to attend class daily and on time. Students who are habitually truant should expect their grades to suffer, both from missing quizzes and failing to participate in class activities. In anticipation of illness, academic stress, and the need for an occasional mental health day, each student will be allowed three excused absences, and the lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped.

Everyone is expected to come to class prepared to translate and discuss reading assignments. While I naturally expect plenty of mistakes to be made, I expect your participation to show evidence that you have spent time on the reading assignments. Also, I may periodically assign written homework exercises to accompany your reading assignments.

Finally, students will engage with and contribute to the commentary in the *Lectiones* section of *Cyrus’ Paradise*. This will take the form of asking and/or responding to

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questions on the site. Students should make at least one contribution per week (hopefully more).

Quizzes:

Beginning with week 2, there will be a short quiz to begin class each Wednesday. However, we will not have a quiz during exam weeks or during a week immediately following an exam. Quizzes will typically consist of a short passage from our recent readings to translate with some accompanying grammatical questions.

Reading Presentation:

Over the course of the semester each student will choose one scholarly article on the *Cyropaedia* for the class to read. You may select an article according to your own interests, or you may ask the instructor to help you choose. You will open class discussion with a five-minute presentation outlining the major and most interesting claims of the article, critiquing its strengths and weaknesses, and posing a discussion question or two to the class. These presentations and discussions will take place on Fridays. Please have your article selected no later than Monday of the week you are to present, in order to give your fellow students time to read it.

Exams:

There will be exams held in class on Fri., Feb. 27 and Fri., Apr. 17. A final exam will be given at the allotted time during exam week (Wed., May 13, 7-10 PM). The final exam is cumulative (it will cover all of our readings over the semester). Exam 2 is not cumulative (it will cover only our readings after the first exam).

Students who are unable to attend an exam at the appointed time **MUST** notify me ahead of time to make alternate arrangements. Arrive at exams on time. During an exam, **NO** further exams will be distributed after any student has turned in their test and left the room. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Essay:

Each student will write an essay of about 1200 words on a topic pertaining to Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia*. Students have considerable freedom in selecting a topic, but should run it by the instructor ahead of time. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) the *Cyropaedia*’s place in Greek literary genres (i.e., biography, the ancient novel, etc.), lessons of leadership in the text, or the text’s reception in the Italian Renaissance and beyond. Essays are due on the final day of class (Fri., May. 8). Essays should clearly present a thesis, structure an argument around the thesis, and show some evidence of outside research.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the course opportunities may arise to earn extra credit. For instance, students who attend certain special events sponsored by the Classics Department may turn in a one-page response for a small amount of extra credit. These events will be announced in class.

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The Fine Print and Hamilton Resources:

Disability Accommodations: Hamilton College will make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation(s) and would like to make a formal request for this course, please discuss it with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide Allen Harrison, Associate Dean of Students (Elihu Root House; 315.859.4021) with appropriate documentation of your disability.

Academic Honesty: Hamilton’s honor code regarding academic honesty may be found at <http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/studentconduct/honor-code>