

## CAMS 025 (Greek Civilization) on the Web

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**Office Hours**      This is an online course, and therefore traditional office hours will not be held. I am always available through ANGEL, though, and I have a special AIM account dedicated to my online course offerings. If you wish to set up a chat appointment, please send me an ANGEL message and we will agree to a mutually convenient time. My AIM account is: CAMS045Web

**Email**      My email address is [jkb171@psu.edu](mailto:jkb171@psu.edu), but I request that **all** course correspondence use ANGEL's "Communicate" feature. Please use my regular email *only* in an emergency.

**Course Info**

- Credits: 3
- Course: CAMS 025
- Location: Online
- Homepage: <http://cms.psu.edu>

**Required Texts**

1. The Essential Homer. Trans. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing. ISBN: 0872205401.
2. Aeschylus. Oresteia. Trans. Peter Meineck. Hackett Publishing. ISBN: 0872203905.
3. Sophocles. Antigone, Oedipus the King, Electra. Trans. D. F. Kitto. New York: Oxford UP, 1998. ISBN: 0192835822.
4. Sophocles. Aias (Ajax). Trans. Herbert Golder and Richard Pevear. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. ISBN: 0195128192.
5. Euripides. Medea. Trans. John Harrison. New York: Cambridge UP, 2005. ISBN: 0521644798.
6. Plato. Symposium. Trans. Seth Benardete. Chicago, IL: U of Chicago P, 2001. ISBN: 0226042758.
7. Aristophanes. Lysistrata/The Acharnians/The Clouds. Trans. Alan H. Sommerstein. New York: Penguin Classics, 1973. ISBN: 0140442871.

Other required readings will be available online or through Penn State Libraries' Electronic Reserve (ER, on which see below). While all readings in this course are required, the textbooks listed above are *optional to buy*. All readings in this course are available for free online, so purchasing the books listed above is not mandatory. You may, however, find it easier to read from a book than from a computer screen and some of our readings get pretty long. Also, you are always responsible for the assigned reading. So, if you choose to rely on the online readings, you are assuming the risk that servers go down, that web pages randomly become unavailable, etc. The online versions of

the texts are not available through Penn State servers, which means that I have no control over these online readings. If a reading becomes unavailable, I cannot do anything to fix it. Please do not email me with problems accessing online readings because of a down website, or a server error. I can't do anything about it.

I am very happy that I am able to offer this course online with the added benefit of free readings. I do, though, caution you against investing too much confidence in the online versions of the course texts. My experience shows that these servers do occasionally have problems. Further, the translations that are available online are old, which means that they will not read as fluidly as the books listed above. You might find the assigned books to be easier. Also, in the case of Homer, our first readings, you will end up doing far less reading if you buy the book than if you use the online readings (less reading by perhaps 40%). I at least strongly encourage you to buy Homer.

**Course Description**

CAMS 25 Greek Civ Web has been designed to give students an overview of Greek cultural, political, and social history. Covering roughly the time from the earliest complex societies in Greece to Alexander the Great and Hellenism, this course will focus on such topics as women in ancient Greece, the origins of democracy, the city-state, literary achievements, sexuality, war and warfare, philosophy, and more. Students will encounter these topics and others through lectures and primary sources. Through our study of the ancient Greeks, students will see the importance of studying this fascinating and important culture, both as it relates to history and to our own day.

**Course Schedule**

Please see "Course Schedule" under the Lessons tab and the course Calendar.

**Course Requirements**

Midterm.....	20%
Quizzes (there are 9 total).....	25%
Papers.....	20%
Discussion Boards.....	10%
Final Exam.....	25%
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	100%

Please see the Calendar for all due dates and times. NB: All deadlines are at 12 NOON. Nothing in this course will ever be due at Midnight.

Exams: See Examination Policy below.

Quizzes: You will have 9 quizzes. These quizzes are online in

ANGEL. Each quiz will cover the material for roughly 2-3 lessons. You can take these quizzes whenever you want, as long as you complete them before their respective deadlines (you must complete quizzes 1-5 BEFORE the midterm exam posts; you must complete quizzes 6-9 BEFORE the final exam posts). You must complete Quiz 0 before you begin the course lessons. I suggest that you take the quizzes in conjunction with the lessons to which they correspond, but it's your choice (as long as you observe all due dates/times).

Papers: You must write three short (2 pages) papers in this class. Each paper has a deadline, and so the topics will correspond to a general range of lesson material. You may complete and submit these papers anytime you want, as long as you submit them *to the appropriate dropbox* no later than the posted due date/time. These papers are not research papers; the topics are a mix of response papers and thesis papers. Keep in mind as your work on your essays that with only two pages, you will need to be very concise and to the point. Please see the Paper information page (in the Papers folder) for more information.

Discussion Boards: Because this class is online, we do not have many opportunities for discussion of the course material. So, to combat this limitation of web courses, we will be using ANGEL's message board system to hold online discussions.

- Each student will be randomly assigned to a team in ANGEL. There will be a message board set up for each team. Team assignments typically happen during the first weekend of the semester to allow for student adds/drops. Thanks for your patience.
- Each week, students must make one original post based on the readings or lecture material. This post should be thoughtful and show an engagement with the readings and lectures. There is no length requirement, but several sentences or a short paragraph should be sufficient. You are welcome to post more than once/week, but the minimum for new posts is one post/week.
- Each week, students must respond to another teammate's post/reply. The idea here is to get ongoing, engaged online conversations rolling. You are welcome to reply more than the minimum, but you must make a reply every week. You are welcome to keep a conversation running as long as it goes, replying often to a certain thread, but please don't forget that no matter how much you reply, you also must make one original post each week. Check the calendar for due dates/times.

## **Grading Policy**

A = 100-94  
A- = 90-93.9  
B+ = 87-89.9  
B = 84-86.9  
B- = 80-83.9  
C+ = 77-79.9  
C = 70-76.9  
D = 60-69.9  
F = 0-59.9

NB: These cutoffs are pretty much set in stone. I do not believe in extra-credit, and I do not round up scores. Occasionally, if a student has exhibited extraordinary effort and participation throughout the semester, I will bump a student a few tenths of a percent to the next grade. I would never consider bumping a 93.5 to a 94. It is your responsibility to keep a watch on your grades throughout the term, and to consult with me about improvement as the semester goes along. Students who contact me during finals week to tell me why they didn't do all of the message boards and how they deserve a little extra consideration with their borderline grade, receive no sympathy from me. Where was this email a month ago when we could have done something about it?

### **Examination Policy**

Your exams in this course are online, and administered through ANGEL. Basically, your exams look like big ANGEL quizzes. Your exams will include matching, true/false, multiple choice, and multiple select (I incorporate many of these question types in the quizzes). You will have 75 minutes to finish your exams from the moment you start them, so it is advisable that you plan your time carefully, so that you don't run out of time. After 75 minutes, the exams auto-submit (plus, because the exams are administered through ANGEL, the timer will be unforgiving). For more information about your midterm and final, please refer to the Midterm and Final Exam folders under the Lessons tab.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to behave within the guidelines of academic and personal integrity. Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by

others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. For more details please visit the University Faculty Senate page on policies at: <http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/>

This is serious stuff. I can't think of the last semester that I did not catch a student cheating. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes cheating. There is an iStudy learning module under the Lessons tab. This is not required, but if you have any doubts or uncertainties about cheating, plagiarizing, or other forms of academic dishonesty, I strongly urge you to go through the learning module.

**Disability Access  
Statement**

Neither I nor Penn State discriminates against students. If you have any special needs that must be met for you to have success in this course, please inform me as soon as possible. This request includes physical access, as well as accommodation of learning differences/challenges.

**Additional  
Information**

Using Electronic Reserve (ER):  
Electronic Reserve is a wonderful service available through the Penn State Libraries. All you need to use ER is an internet connection and Adobe Acrobat Reader (which is a free download, and preloaded on many computers). [There are two good ways to access ER.](#)