Reading Classical Greek: Herodotus, Histories Book 5, chapters 23-78 and 97

Start date 19 May 2023 End date 21 May 2023

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr John Taylor Course code 2223NRX033

For further information contact intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

Course syllabus

Aims:
The course will allow you to:
1. Read an extended section of the *Histories*
2. Develop your appreciation of Greek prose style
3. Understand the text in its historical and literary setting

Content:
The reading material is Herodotus’ account of the Ionian Revolt of 499 BC (precipitated by a message tattooed on a slave’s head), in which the Greek cities of Asia Minor attempted to throw off their Persian overlords. It forms a bridge between his ethnographic survey of the known world and his narrative of the Persian Wars. It exemplifies characteristic themes: change over time, the interaction of Greek and barbarian, and the ambiguities of self-interested leadership.

Presentation of the course:
You are asked to read the Greek text in advance of the course, so that the language content of the classes can focus on ironing out any difficulties in the vocabulary, grammar and syntax encountered during preparation, and translating into English (we will aim for fluency without departing too far from the Greek). The classes are led by the tutor, but with full participation from the students, so that all will have the opportunity to take their turn in reading the Greek text aloud, and translating into English, and joining in discussion of the text in its historical setting. After dinner on Saturday, there will be an illustrated talk setting Herodotus in his literary context.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:
1. Recognise new features of Greek language including the Ionic dialect of Herodotus
2. Recognise more vocabulary
3. Gain confidence in translation
4. Begin to understand the style and preoccupations of Herodotus
Course programme

Friday
Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 Background and beginning of the Ionian Revolt

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Plans of Aristagoras; Ionia rises; Aristagoras journeys to Sparta

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Aristagoras in Sparta; background on Cleomenes; their meeting

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 Aristagoras in Athens; background on tyranny

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 ‘Herodotus and Thucydides’

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Athens freed from tyranny; Cleisthenes of Athens and Cleisthenes of Sicyon

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Campaigns against Athens; Aristagoras receives Persian ships

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch
Reading and resources list

There are numerous good introductory books on Herodotus. Particularly recommended are:


**Online resources:**

Perseus gives access to Greek texts, translations and other resources: