

## 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** [inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk)

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### Tutor biography

Educated at Balderstone School, Rochdale and Exeter College, Oxford. MA, DPhil. Full time Classics teacher 1982-2012. Head of Classics, St Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool, 1986-92. Head of Classics, Tonbridge School 1992-2012. Lecturer in Classics, University of Manchester since 2015. Tutor, JACT Greek Summer School, Bryanston, since 1986 (Director of Studies 1993-2004, Director five times 2007-19). John has been teaching for ICE since 1993.

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## Course syllabus

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### 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

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## Course programme

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### 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**

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## Reading and resources list

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

Gould, J. (1989), *Herodotus*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Roberts, J.T. (2011), *Herodotus: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Romm, J. (1998), *Herodotus*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press

Sheehan, S. (2018), *A Guide to Reading Herodotus' Histories*, London: Bloomsbury

### **Online resources:**

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

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>