

CLS/HIS 395: Alexander the Great

Fall 2009

MWF 11:00–11:50 ARH 224

Professor Hugh Bowden

Office: Room 103 Harry Hopkins House (1131 Park)

Office Hours: TTh 9–11

Phone: 269-4241

ABOUT THE COURSE

Alexander the Great was one of the pivotal figures in the ancient world. By the time of his death at the age of 32, he was ruler of an empire that included most of modern Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, as well as substantial parts of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. This course will examine how he won, and how he attempted to control, this vast territory, and at what cost to himself and others.

Almost everything we know about Alexander comes from a small number of accounts of his career written in Greek and Latin between c. 50 BCE and c. 150 CE. This course therefore puts considerable stress on reading and interpreting these texts (in English translation). However, it is being increasingly recognized that Alexander has to be understood as a figure as much of Ancient Near Eastern history as of Greek history, and this affects the way the ancient narratives must be interpreted. The course therefore also examines the fragmentary Near Eastern evidence about Alexander. Finally it considers some more modern representations of Alexander, both Eastern and Western.

OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of the career of Alexander the Great and the world in which he lived;
- The ability to analyse ancient narrative and documentary sources;
- The ability to put forward their own arguments, appropriately supported, both orally and in writing;
- The ability to discuss constructively the views of others, both orally and in writing.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The requirements for the course are as follows:

Participation (25%) This will be based on active involvement in discussion sessions, demonstrating that you are up-to-date with the reading. I will base this part of your grade on several criteria, including attendance, frequency of participation, the insightfulness of your classroom comments; although I hope that everyone will participate regularly, note that the insightfulness of your comments is more important than the frequency of your participation.

Source Study (15%) A five-page paper exploring an aspect of the use of the ancient sources for the study of Alexander the Great, to be submitted by October 12. Topics will be assigned on September 4, and you may, if you choose, discuss any problems in writing the paper in a surgery session on October 2. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins, and should not employ anything larger than 12-point font.

Research Paper (35%) A ten-page paper on a topic of your choice (by agreement with me). You are expected to submit a draft by November 23, which I will discuss with you on November 30 or December 2, so that it can be revised ahead of final submission on December 9. Anyone missing the November 23 deadline will still be able to submit their essay for the final deadline, but will not have the chance to receive feedback. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins, and should not employ anything larger than 12-point font.

Final Examination (25%) Format to be arranged.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

In sessions labelled as 'Lectures', I will be doing most of the talking, but I will encourage your interventions. In sessions labelled as 'Discussions', you will be doing most of the talking, and I will intervene where appropriate. It is your performance in Discussions that will be significant for the Participation element in the final grade.

READINGS

The most important material to read is the accounts of Alexander's life written by ancient authors. There are four key texts, which you will read over the course of the semester. We will discuss sections of them in detail in discussion sessions, and it is imperative that you keep your reading up-to-date. You should purchase copies of the first three, published in Penguin Classics; the fourth is published in the Loeb Classical Library, but it also available online:

Arrian, *Campaigns of Alexander*, translated by Aubrey De Sélincourt
Quintus Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander*, translated by John Yardley
Plutarch, 'Alexander' in *The Age of Alexander*, translated by Ian Scott-Kilvert
Diodorus Siculus, Book 17, translated by C. Bradford Welles
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Diodorus_Siculus/17A*.html
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/> (type "Diod. 17.contents" – without quotation marks – into the search box)

In addition you should buy and read:

Lane Fox, R. (1973), *Alexander the Great*, London.
Worthington, I. (2003), *Alexander the Great: a reader*, London.
Worthington, I. (2004), *Alexander the Great: man and god*, Harlow etc.

There will be some other documents to read, but I will supply texts for these.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 0

Aug 28 Introduction
• Lane Fox ch.1.
• Worthington ch. 1

Week 1

Aug 31 Lecture: Macedon, Greece, Persia
• Lane Fox, R. (1973), *Alexander the Great*, ch. 2, 6.

Sept 2 Lecture: Writing About Alexander
• Worthington *Reader* ch. 1

Sept 4 Discussion: The Sources
• Diod. 17.1, 17.117.5
• Curt. 10.5.26–37 (pp. 247–8)
• Plut. *Alex.* 1–4 (pp. 252–4)
• Arr. 1.1, 1.12, 7.28–30 (pp. 41, 67–8, 395–8)

TOPICS FOR THE SOURCE STUDY WILL BE ASSIGNED AT THIS POINT.

Week 2

Sept 7 LABOR DAY

Sept 9 Lecture: Alexander and Philip II

- Lane Fox ch. 3
- Worthington ch. 2–3
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 2

- Plut. *Alex.* 5–10 (pp. 256–263)

Sept 11 Lecture: The Settlement of Greece

- Lane Fox ch. 4–5
- Worthington ch. 4
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 4 (pp. 65–89)

- Diod. 17.2–8
- Arr. 1.1–7 (pp. 41–54)

Week 3

Sept 14 Discussion: The Siege Of Thebes

- Diod. 17.8–15
- Plut. *Alex.* 11–13 (pp. 263–266)
- Arr. 1.7–10 (pp. 54–64)

Sept 16 Lecture: Crossing to Asia

- Lane Fox ch. 7–8
- Worthington ch. 5
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 5 (pp. 106–135)

- Diod. 17.16
- Plut. *Alex.* 14 (pp. 266–267)
- Arr. 1.11 (pp. 64–65)

Sept 18 Discussion: Alexander at Troy and the Granicus

- Diod. 17.17–21
- Plut. *Alex.* 15–16 (pp. 267–270)
- Arr. 1.12–16 (pp. 67–76)

Week 4

Sept 21 Lecture: Alexander In Asia Minor

- Lane Fox ch. 9–10

Sept 23 Discussion: Alexander And The Greek Cities Of Asia

- Inscription texts to be supplied
- Diod. 17.22–30
- Plut. *Alex.* 17 (pp. 270–271)

- Arr. 1.17–25 (pp. 76–94)

Sept 25 NO MEETING: WORK ON SOURCE STUDY

Week 5

Sept 28 Lecture: Alexander In Anatolia And The Levant

- Lane Fox ch. 11–13
- Worthington ch. 6
- Diod. 17.31–39
- Curt. 3.1.1–4.1.38, 4.5.1–4.6.30 (pp. 26–53, 61–66)
- Plut. *Alex.* 18–23 (pp. 271–278)
- Arr. 1.26–2.15, 2.25–27 (pp. 94–129, 143–147)

Sept 30 Discussion: Siege Of Tyre

- Diod. 17.40–47
- Curt. 4.2.1–4.4.21 (pp. 54–61)
- Plut. *Alex.* 24–25 (pp. 278–281)
- Arr. 2.16–24 (pp. 129–143)

Oct 2 Surgery for Source Study

Week 6

Oct 5 Lecture: Alexander In Egypt

- Lane Fox ch. 14
- Worthington ch. 7

Oct 7 Discussion: Alexander At Siwah

- Diod. 17.48–52
- Curt. 4.7.1–4.8.16 (pp. 66–70)
- Plut. *Alex.* 26–27 (pp. 281–284)
- Arr. 3.1–5 (pp. 148–155)

Oct 9 Lecture: Alexander In Iraq

- Lane Fox ch. 15–18
- Worthington ch. 8
- Diod. 17.53–69
- Curt. 4.9.1–5.5.24
- Plut. *Alex.* 29–37 (pp. 285–295)
- Arr. 3.6–17 (pp. 155–175)

Week 7

Oct 12 Discussion: The Burning Of Persepolis

- Diod. 17.70–72

- Curt. 5.6.1–5.7.12 (pp. 105–108)
- Plut. *Alex.* 38 (p. 295)
- Arr. 3.18 (pp. 175–179)

Oct 14 Lecture: Alexander In Pursuit Of Darius

- Lane Fox ch. 19–20
- Worthington ch. 9
- Diod. 17.73–76, 78
- Curt. 5.8.1–6.5.21 (pp. 108–127)
- Plut. *Alex.* 42–44 (pp. 299–301)
- Arr. 3.19–25 (pp. 179–191)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF SOURCE STUDY: MIDNIGHT

Oct 16 Discussion: Adopting Persian Dress

- Diod. 17.77
- Curt. 6.5.22–6.6.11 (pp. 127–129)
- Plut. *Alex.* 40, 45–47 (pp. 297–8, 301–304)
- Arr. 4.7, 7.6 (pp. 211–213, 356–357)

FALL BREAK

Week 8

Oct 26 Discussion: Philotas And Cleitus

- Worthington *Reader* ch. 10
- Diod. 17.79–80
- Curt. 6.7.1–7.2.38, 8.1.20–8.2.12 (pp. 131–153, 177–181)
- Plut. *Alex.* 48–52 (pp. 304–310)
- Arr. 3.26–27, 4.8–9 (pp. 191–193, 213–217)

Oct 28 Lecture: Alexander In Afghanistan

- Lane Fox ch. 21–23
- Worthington ch. 10
- Diod. 17.81–83
- Curt. 6.6.12–36, 7.3.1–8.1.19, 8.2.13–8.4.30 (pp. 129–131, 153–177, 181–187)
- Arr. 3.28–4.6, 4.15–21 (pp. 194–211, 227–238)

Oct 30 Discussion: *Proskynesis* and Callisthenes

- Curt. 8.5.1–8.8.23 (pp. 187–195)
- Plut. *Alex.* 53–55 (pp. 310–313)
- Arr. 4.10–14 (pp. 217–227)

Week 9

Nov 2 Lecture: To The Edge Of The World

- Lane Fox ch. 24–28
- Worthington ch. 11
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 6

Nov 4 Discussion: Alexander In India

- Diod. 17.84–104
- Curt. 8.9.1–9.9.27 (pp. 196–235)
- Plut. *Alex.* 57–66 (pp. 314–324)
- Arr. 4.22–6.20 (pp. 238–330)

Nov 6 Lecture: The Return From The East

- Lane Fox ch. 29
- Worthington ch. 12

- Diod. 17.105
- Curt. 9.10.1–29 (pp. 235–237)
- Plut. *Alex.* 67 (pp. 324–325)
- Arr. 6.21–26 (pp. 330–340)

Week 10

Nov 9 Discussion: Alexander And The Persians: Orxines & Peucestas

- Diod. 17.106, 108
- Curt. 10.1.22–42 (pp. 239–241)
- Plut. *Alex.* 68 (pp. 325–326)
- Arr. 6.27–30 (pp. 340–347)

Nov 11 Lecture: Alexander In Iran

- Lane Fox ch. 30
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 5 (pp. 136–147)

- Diod. 17.107, 109–111
- Curt. 10.1.1–21, 10.2.1–10.4.2 (pp. 238–239, 241–245)
- Plut. *Alex.* 69–72 (pp. 326–330)
- Arr. 7.1–15 (pp. 348–375)

Nov 13 NO MEETING: WORK ON FINAL PAPER

Week 11

Nov 16 Discussion: Alexander As King

- Plut. *Alex.* 39–40 (pp. 296–298)

Nov 18 Lecture: Alexander's Last Days

- Lane Fox ch. 31–32
- Worthington ch. 13

Nov 20 Discussion: Exiles decree

- Inscription texts to be supplied
- Diod. 17.109.1–2

Week 12

Nov 23 Discussion: *Omina mortis*

- Diod. 17.112, 116–118
- Curt. 10.5.1–10.10.20 (pp. 245–257)
- Plut. *Alex.* 73–77 (pp. 330–334)
- Arr. 7.16–30 (pp. 375–398)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFTS FOR FINAL PAPER:
MIDNIGHT

Nov 25 Lecture: Alexander The God?

- Worthington ch. 14
- Worthington *Reader* ch. 9

THANKSGIVING

Week 13

Nov 30 Feedback On Drafts

Dec 2 Feedback On Drafts

Dec 4 Discussion: Alexander 'Son Of Ammon'

- Diod. 17.108.3
- Curt. 4.7.25–32, 6.9.18, 6.10.26–29, 6.11.5–7, 6.11.23–26, 8.1.42, 8.5.5, 8.7.13, 8.8.14–15, 8.10.1, 8.10.29 (pp. 68–9, 137, 141, 142, 143–144, 179, 187, 193, 195, 198, 200)
- Plut. *Alex.* 28 (pp. 284–285)
- Arr. 3.3, 4.8–9, 7.2, 7.8, 7.29 (pp. 151, 213–218, 350, 359–360, 397)

Week 14

Dec 7 Film Session: Alexander the Great (1968)

Dec 9 Film Session: Alexander Senki (2003)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPER: MIDNIGHT

Dec 11 Discussion: Alexander On Film