


History of  
Ancient Greece  
FALL 2024

MEETING 1

## Introduction and Evidence

- The Aegean world
- The syllabus
- Themes for the course
- Evidence
- Greek writing



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## What is this course?



History of Ancient Greece  
HIA 320/720, cross-listed with LEH 354

Thursdays  
6:00 – 8:40 p.m. in Carman 209

[markbwilson.com/courses/ZZ/ZZ\\_ag/](http://markbwilson.com/courses/ZZ/ZZ_ag/)

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## Who am I?



Mark Wilson  
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Carman 292

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

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### Five things today

- 1 The Aegean world
- 2 The course website
- 3 Essays and assignments
- 4 Evidence
- 5 Greek writing

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### The Aegean world

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### The ancient Greeks



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## How are we connected to the Greeks?

- Language
- Laws
  - Ideas of justice, society
  - Government
  - Citizen
- Technology
- Arts, literature
- Philosophy and science
- Religion

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## The Mediterranean World




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## The Aegean world




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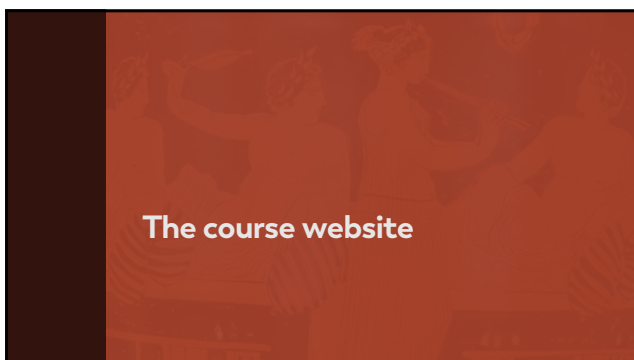
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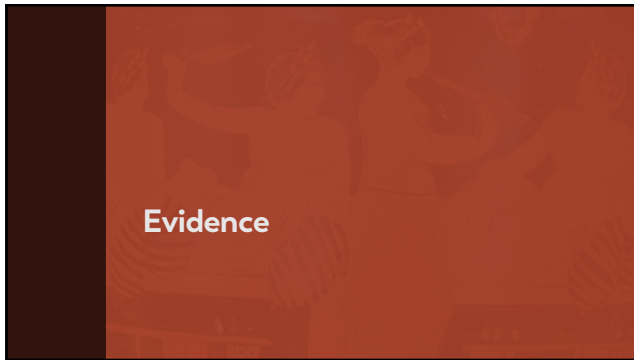
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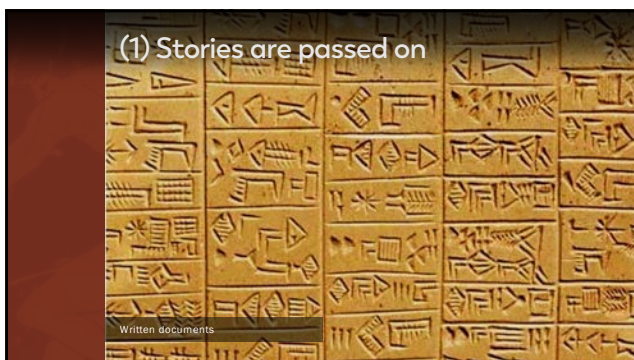
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(2) Things survive



Art

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The Epic of Gilgamesh

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Kinds of evidence

- Primary source
  - Eyewitness testimony from the place and time being studied
- Secondary source
  - A scholar collects and interprets primary sources on a subject
- Tertiary source
  - General scholarly consensus on a subject
  - Includes encyclopedias, textbooks, and almost everything on the web
  - NOT ALLOWED as a source for history papers

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### Problems with primary sources?

- Intentional bias
- Unintentional bias
- Point of view
- Survival
- Translation

**CONCLUSION:**  
There are no facts in history

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"Books are not made to be believed,  
but to be subjected to inquiry.  
When we consider a book,  
we mustn't ask ourselves what it says  
but what it means."

— William of Baskerville in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*

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### Example: Pliny the Younger, 79 CE

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 79 CE

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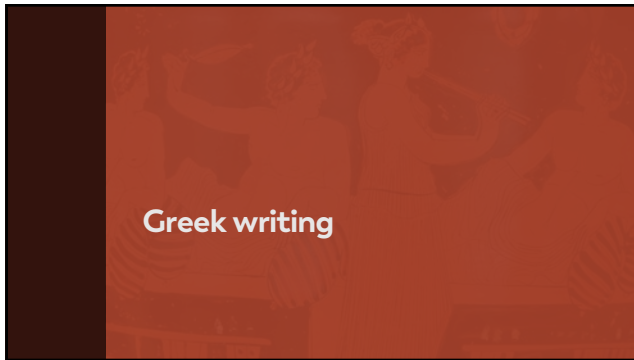
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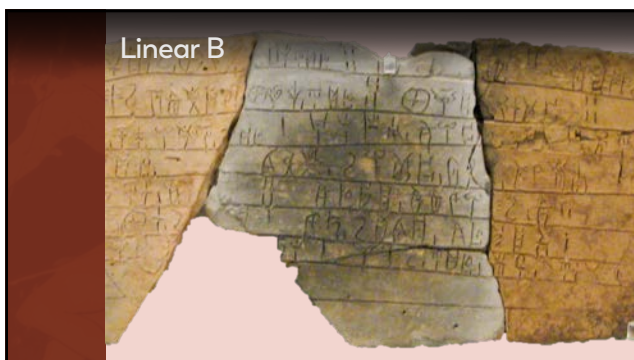
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**The Greek alphabet**

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω  
 α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω  
 αι αυ ει οι ου

Όμηρος      Σωκράτης  
 Έλλάς  
 Μάρκος Όυίλσον

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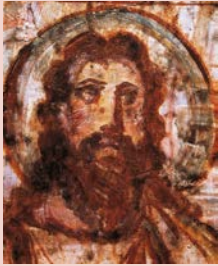
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Yeshua bar-Yosef

Ιησούς Χριστός  
Iesous Christos

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Some Greek names

Homer	Greek epic poet	8th century BCE	Ὅμηρος
Hesiod	Greek poet	Early 7th century BCE	Ἡσίοδος
Sappho	Greek lyric poet	c. 620 – c. 570 BCE	Σαπφώ
Pindar	Theban lyric poet	522 – 443 BCE	Πίνδαρος
Herodotus	Greek historian	484 – 425 BCE	Ἡρόδοτος
Thucydides	Athenian general and historian	c. 460 – c. 395 BCE	Θουκυδίδης
Aeschylus	Greek tragic playwright	c. 525 – c. 426 BCE	Αἰσχύλος
Euripides	Athenian tragic playwright	480 – 406 BCE	Εὐριπίδης
Solon	Athenian statesman and poet	c. 638 – 558 BCE	Σόλων
Xenophon	Athenian general and historian	c. 430 – 354 BCE	Ξενοφών
Socrates	Athenian philosopher	470–399 BCE	Σωκράτης
Plato	Athenian philosopher	428 – 347 BCE	Πλάτων
Aristotle	Athenian philosopher	384 – 322 BCE	Ἀριστοτέλης

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