**GREECE AND PERSIA: THE WAR THAT INVENTED HISTORY**

***Syllabus***

Week 1: *The Story,* and its sources

* Historical Background
* Herodotus, father of history
* The Greek and Roman successors of Herodotus
* The story they told
* Other sources
* What the other sources say
* Why you’ve probably never heard that story

Week 2: *The Greeks*—Who they were and why we should care

* History (From Archaic Greece to Classical Greece)
* Society
* Government
* Religion
* Philosophy
* Science
* Literature and Drama
* Art
* War

Week 3: *The Persians*—Who were they, and *should* we care?

* From Nomad to Empire
* Government
* Society
* Religion and Values
* Philosophy and Science
* Art

Week 4: *When The Mede Came:* The Rise of Persia and the first clashes

* Cyrus the Great and the Rise of Persia (550-530 BCE)
* Cambyses, the Conquest of Egypt (530-522)
* The Crisis of 522
* Darius the Great: Consolidation, Reorganization, Expansion (521-500)
* Ionian Revolt (499-494)
* Persian punitive expedition, Battle of Marathon (490)

Week 5: *The Great Invasion*—The Stunning Greek Victory

* Athens and Persia after Marathon
* Xerxes’s Army—How Big Was It Really?
* Xerxes’s Invasion (480-479 BCE)
* Delian League Wars (478-449 BCE)
* Peace of Callias ends Persian War (449 BCE)

Week 6: *The Victors Fall Out*—or, Hubris and Nemesis

* Sources
* Meet the Spartans
* *Pentecontaetia*, Golden Age of Greece: Fifty Years of Peace (480-431 BCE)
* Archidaemion War (431-421 BCE) *(Peloponnesian War Part 1)*
* Athenian expedition to Syracuse (in Sicily) (415-13 BCE)
* “The Second War” (413-404 BCE) *(Peloponnesian War Part 2)*
* *Excursus:* The Strange Career of Alcibiades
* Meanwhile . . . *Changes in Philosophy, Drama, Religion*

Week 7: *The King’s “Peace”*—or, Fifty Years of War

* Sources
* The Decline of Sparta (403-386)
* Theban Ascendancy (371-362)
* Meanwhile . . .
* Rise of Macedon (359-356)
* The Collapse of Classical Greece (356-336)

Week 8: *Alexander the Accursed*—Destruction of an Empire

* Sources
* Two Kings: Alexander II and Darius III “Codomannus”
* The Campaign for Asia Minor (334)
* The Campaign for the Levant (333-332)
* Defeat of Persia (331-330)
* Alexander’s Final Years (329-323)
* Legacy