BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Fall Course, 2024

Xenophon and Sparta: Socrates’ Other Student and Greece’s Other City

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<th>COURSE INFORMATION</th>
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<td>COURSE TITLE</td>
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<td>&quot;Xenophon and Sparta: Socrates’ Other Student and Greece’s Other City&quot;</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE
DAYS: Thursday
TIMES: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

CLASS LOCATION
online

INSTRUCTOR
Austin Walker
PHONE: (985) 789-0458
EMAIL: agwalker@uchicago.edu

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Classical Greece is at the center of the Basic Program, and at the center of Classical Greece are Athens and Plato. At least, as far as the readings that make it into great books curriculums are concerned. But Classical Greece had other city-states than Athens, and Socrates had other students than Plato.

To the ancient and early modern world, however, Sparta was as interesting a city as Athens; and Xenophon at least a small rival to Plato. By a happy coincidence, Xenophon is a preeminent source for understanding the constitution and culture of Sparta. Xenophon of Athens was a soldier, philosopher, and friend of Socrates. He composed his own *Apology* of Socrates and led a military retreat of 10,000 Greek mercenaries across Persia (recounted in the *Anabasis*). He was a confidant of the Spartan king Agesilaus II and analyzed the Spartan constitution in a work by the same name. He also wrote the *Hellenica*, which completed the history of the Peloponnesian War from where Thucydides concluded and the *Cyropaideia*, a fictionalized account of Cyrus the Great which blended the Spartan and Persian regimes in order to investigate the nature of rule and education (Machiavelli was a great admirer).

This course will study the writings of Xenophon, especially in his treatment of Classical Greece’s *other* great city. It will be supplemented with Plutarch’s “Life of Lycurgus,” the other ancient treatment of Sparta. It will also include selections from the Strauss-Kojève debate on the 20th century relevance of Xenophon’s *Hiero* or “The Tyrant.”
REQUIRED TEXTS

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.


*** Xenophon’s “On the Spartan Constitution” and Plutarch’s “Life of Lycurgus” will be distributed as .pdf’s***

### WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
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| Week 1  
Date: | Xenophon | *Anabasis* (selections) |
| Week 2  
Date: | Xenophon | *Apology, Memorabilia* (selections) |
| Week 3  
Date: | Xenophon | *Memorabilia* (concluding selections) |
| Week 4  
Date: | Xenophon and Plutarch | *On the Spartan Constitution & Life of Lycurgus* |
| Week 5  
Date: | Xenophon | *Hellenica* (selections) |
| Week 6  
Date: | Xenophon | *Hellenica* (selections) |
| Week 7  
Date: | Xenophon | *Cyropaidea* (selections) |
| Week 8  
Date: | Xenophon | *Cyropaidea* (selections) |
| Week 9  
Date: | Xenophon | *Hiero* (in *On Tyranny*) |
This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.