

## CAHE20061: Politics & Society in Classical Greece



**Summary:** This course offers a detailed exploration of developments in Greek internal and external politics during the Classical period (i.e. from 478 to 322 BC), and examines the character of social relations in Greek communities, with special reference to the politics and society of Classical Athens and Sparta. We study the Athenian Empire; the Peloponnesian War; the 'Golden Age' of Athenian Democracy; the rise and fall of Classical Sparta; and the development of Macedonian power. The course places particular emphasis on close engagement with the rich ancient evidence for this period: we will read perhaps the greatest of all historians (Thucydides), examine speeches from the Athenian lawcourts (dealing with cases ranging from trade disputes to adultery-related homicide), and study inscriptions which record the policies and politics of these states in fascinating detail.

**Teaching method:** 22 lectures and 11 seminars. The **lectures** will outline the main historical developments, issues and controversies. The **seminars** will give you the opportunity to concentrate on a number of important topics within the period, and in particular to develop your skills in interpreting for yourself the ancient evidence which form the basis on which modern scholars have put forward their various interpretations of the period.

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<sup>1</sup> Law against tyranny, 337/6 BC, with relief showing Democracy crowning Dēmos (the People of Athens): <http://agora.ascsa.net/id/agora/image/2008.19.0002>.

**Assessment:**

- Coursework: one essay (25%); one historical commentary (15%)
- Examination: one end-of-course online exam (60%)

**Preparation:** P. J. Rhodes (2017), *History of the Classical Greek World*, covers most of the ground in a fair amount of reasonably accessible detail, and is available as an ebook via the University library catalogue. The course follows on chronologically from CAHE10012 ('Constructing Archaic Greek History'), but knowledge of material covered in that unit is not required.

**Questions?** Contact: [stephen.todd@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.todd@manchester.ac.uk)