

SEMINAR IN ANCIENT HISTORY (190:690)
SPARTAN SOCIETY
Fall 2004

I. The Nature of the Seminar:

We are going to investigate the social and economic history of archaic and classical Sparta. The main body of students in the seminar are expected to have graduate level competency in reading ancient Greek prose. There will, however, also be an option for those students who are not classicists to complete the seminar by utilizing translations of the main texts. This option will allow the participation in our seminar of any interested Transliteration or History graduate students. Naturally, we shall also have a disparate group of participants as regards individual knowledge of Greek history. I shall assume that everyone has had at least the equivalent of the basic Rutgers course in Greek history which is called *Ancient Greece* (510:201). We shall take some considerable time initially ensuring that everyone achieves a fundamental understanding of the terminology, political institutions, and main occurrences associated with Sparta between 750 and 362 BC. Our reading of W.G. Forrest, *A History of Sparta: 950-192 B.C.* (London 1968) and Michael Whitby, *Sparta* (Edinburgh 2002) will assist this goal. It is important, not only for the seminar, but also more globally that this opportunity be put to good use in improving the skills in reading Greek prose for each classicist member of our seminar. We shall read two short Greek works in the entirety: Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaimonians*, and Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus*. The latter part of the seminar will investigate a number of specific problems or controversial topics, some rather broad like Spartan women and others more specific like Spartan iron money.

II. The Requirements for the Seminar:

The responsibilities of the Classics Graduate students for the seminar are threefold: preparation for and participation in translation and discussion in the meetings (35%); sitting for an examination in Greek translation of the assigned materials (30%: self-administered during exam period); and completion of a c. 12-page research paper (35%) on a topic to be assigned. A slightly different option of requirements is available for students who are not Classics Graduate students. Their participation in the weekly sessions will include acting as a *rapporteur*, contributing to the discussion through close reading of several authorities. They will complete a second paper in the form of a take-home essay.

III. Meetings of the Seminar:

The Background to Spartan History

September 13: Lecture: Introduction to Spartan History

Read (do the readings before the first meeting): W.G. Forrest, *A History of Sparta: 950-192 B.C.*

(London 1968) & (if you have time) N.G.L. Hammond, "The Peloponnese," *CAH*² 3.3, 321-60 (esp. 326-34).

September 20: Lecture: The Institutions of Sparta

Read: Michael Whitby, *Sparta* (Edinburgh 2002) & (if you have time) L.H. Jeffery, "Greece before the Persian Invasion," *CAH*² 350-67.

Xenophon, ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ

September 27: Read Xen. *RL* chapters I-VI. Consult (as much as feasible) the commentary of Michael Lipka (*Xenophon's Spartan Constitution: Introduction. Text. Commentary* [Berlin & New York] 2002).

October 4: Read Xen. *RL* VII-XV. Consult the commentary of Lipka, *Xenophon's Spartan Constitution*.

Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus*

October 11: Read Plut. *Lyc.* chapters 1-11. Consult (as much as feasible) Mario Manfredini & Luigi Piccirilli (eds.), *Plutarco. Le vite di Licurgo e di Numa* (Milano) 1980. I appreciate that this will prove difficult for some participants, but some effort should be applied. For those with better French, consult preferentially the shorter notes in Robert Flacelière, Émile Chambry, & Marcel Jumeaux (eds.) *Plutarque. Vies. Tome I. Thésée-Romulus – Lycurgue-Numa* (Paris) 1964.

October 18: Read Plut. *Lyc.* 12-20. Consult Manfredini & Piccirilli, *Le vite di Licurgo e di Numa*.

October 25: Read Plut. *Lyc.* 21-31. Consult Manfredini & Piccirilli, *Le vite di Licurgo e di Numa*.

Studies in Spartan Social History

November 1: System of Dependent Labor ('Helotage')

Reread: Plut. *Lyc.* 28.4-6.

Read: Thuc. 1.101,2; 4.80.2; 8.40.2; Plato *Laws* 776C, 777B-C; *Alcib.* 1.122D; Hellanicus *FGH* 4 F 188; Antiochus *FGH* 555 F 14; Ephorus *FGH* 70 F 117; Theopompus *FGH* 115 F 13, F 122; Paus. 3.2.7, 20.6; *Lexicon Seguerianum* s.v. *Eiàlwtej*, *Anecdota Bekkeri* 1.246; Steph. Byz. s.v. *Χιζοj*, *Ethn.* 693; Critias B 37, D-K 88; Myron *FGH* 106 F 1-2; Plut. *Mor.* 239B (30); Pollux *Onomasticon* 3.83; Tyr. fr. 6-7, Aris. *Pol.* 1269a37-b12. All this material is translated in Cartledge *Sparta and Laconia*² 299-307. Please consult in English the other material translated there.

Review: G.E.M de Ste-Croix in Whitby *Sparta* 191-95; J. Ducat in Whitby *Sparta* 196-211.

Consult: Cartledge *Sparta and Laconia*² 138-53; Cartledge, *Spartan Reflections* (Berkeley & Los Angeles 2001) 127-52; N. Luraghi, 'Helotic Slavery Reconsidered', in A. Powell & S. Hodkinson (eds.) *Sparta. Beyond the Mirage* (London 2000) 227-48; S. Link, "Snatching and keeping. The motif of taking in Spartan culture," in T.J. Figueira (ed.) *Spartan Society* (Swansea 2004).

November 8: System of Land Tenure (*klêros* system) and Transmission and Inheritance of Property

Reread: Xen. *RL* 6.3; Plut. *Lyc.* 8.1-4; Myron *FGH* 106 F 2.

Read: Ephorus *FGH* 70 F 148 ~ Polyb. 6.45.3-4; Justin. 3.3.3; Aris. *Pol.* 1270a18-38; Isoc. *Archid.* (6) 20; Plato *Laws* 684D-E, 736C-E; Plut. *Comp. Lyc. et Numae* 2.6; *Solon* 16.1; *Agis* 5.1-2; *Mor.* 223A (1), 226B (2), 238E (21), 239D-E (41); Heraclid. *Lemb. Excerpta politiarum* 12 (Dilts).

Review: S. Hodkinson, "Spartiate Landownership and Inheritance," in Whitby *Sparta* 86-89.

Consult: S. Hodkinson, *Property and Wealth in Classical Sparta* (Swansea & London 2000) 65-149; Figueira, "The Nature of the Spartan *Klêros*," in *Spartan Society* 47-76; also "Helot Demography and Class Demarcation in Classical Sparta," in N. Luraghi & S. Alcock (eds.) *Helots and their Masters: The History and Sociology of a System of Exploitation* (Cambridge 2003) 183-229, esp. 216-27.

November 15: System of Rearing (*agôgê*) with year-classes, *krypteia*, and adult *diaita*

Reread: Xen. *RL* 2.1-4.7, 6.1-2; Plut. *Lyc.* 14.1-3, 16.1-19.2; 28.1-4.

Read: Thuc. 4.80.3-4; Isoc. 12.181; Plato *Laws* 633B-C; Plut. *Mor.* 225F-26B (1), 227D (12), 237B-F (B-13), 238E (21), 239C-D (40). The passages collected in N. Kennell, *The Gymnasium of Virtue* (Chapel Hill 1995) on ritual whipping deserve reading in translation (pp. 149-61).

Review: S. Hodkinson, "Social Order and the Conflict of Values in Classical Sparta," in Whitby *Sparta* esp. 104-15.

Consult: P. Cartledge, "Spartan Education," *Spartan Reflections* 79-90; Cartledge, *Agesilaos and the Crisis of Sparta* (London & Baltimore 1987) 20-33; read with caution Kennell *Gymnasium of Virtue* 5-27 with the reviews of Cartledge *CR* 47 (1997) 97-98 & Figueira *CO* 74 (1996-97) 155; J. Ducat, "Perspectives on Spartan education in the classical period," in S. Hodkinson & A. Powell (eds.) *Sparta New Perspectives* (London & Swansea 1999) 43-66. The interesting monograph of M. Lupi, *L'ordine delle generazioni: classi di età e costumi matrimoniali nell'antica Sparta*, can be approached obliquely through the review of Figueira in *BMCR* (2002).

November 22: System of Messes (*phiditia/syssitia*)

Reread: Xen. *RL* 5.1-9; Plut. *Lyc.* 8.3-4, 12.1-7.

Read: Aris. *Pol.* 1271a26-37, 1272a13-16; Critias fr. 6 W; Athenaeus *Deipnosophistae* 4.138b-143a with Dikaiarkhos of Messene *FHG* 2.242, fr. 23 = fr. 72 Wehrli, Phylarchus *FGH* 81 F 44; Plut. *Demetr.* 1.5; *Mor.* 226D-27A (4-6), 236F-37B (1-6), 239A (30); *Agis* 8.4; *Cleomenes* 13.3-4.

Review: A. Powell, "Dining Groups, Marriage, Homosexuality," in Whitby *Sparta* 90-103.

Consult: Figueira, "Mess Contributions and Subsistence at Sparta," *TAPA* 114 (1984) 87-109; "Helot Demography ...," in Luraghi & Alcock *Helots and their Masters* esp. 199-217; W.W. Singor, "Admission to the *Syssitia* in Fifth-Century Sparta," in S. Hodkinson & A. Powell (eds.) *Sparta New Perspectives* (London & Swansea 1999) 67-89; Hodkinson *Property and Wealth* 55-58, 190-201, 216-18, 356-58; also (if you can) J. Ducat, *Les Hilotes* (Paris 1990) 61-62.

November 29: Women's Status and Social Role (including marriage patterns)

Reread: Xen. *RL* 1.3-10, 9.5-6; Plut. *Lyc.* 14.2-15.11.

Read: Aris. *Pol.* 1269b12-70a29; Hdt. 5.39-41; 6.57.4, 61-63, 65.2; Eur. *Andr.* 597-641; Arist. *Lys.* 76-84; Plut. *Mor.* 227E-28C (13-21). Read, in Greek preferably or in English, Plut. *Mor.* 240C-42D; Alcman *Partheneion* 1, 3, which are available in many translations; note S. Pomeroy, *Spartan Women* (Oxford 2002) 6-7, or D.A. Campbell, *Greek Lyric II* (Loeb 1988) 360-77, 378-83.

Review: Cartledge, "Spartan Wives: Liberation or License?," in Whitby *Sparta* 131-60 (or read the slightly longer, revised version of the same piece in Cartledge *Spartan Reflections* 106-26).

Consult: B.L. Kunstler, "Female dynamics and female power in ancient Sparta", in M. Skinner (ed.) *Rescuing Creusa: New methodological approaches to women in antiquity*, Lubbock, Texas = special issue of *Helios* 13 (1986), 31-48; S. Pomeroy, *Spartan Women* (Oxford 2002) 139-70, then 3-71; E. Millender, "Athenian ideology and the empowered Spartan woman," in S. Hodkinson & A. Powell (eds.) *Sparta: New Perspectives* (London 1999) 355-91.

December 6: Patterns of Exchange (focusing on barter and iron money); Influx of Metals Problem

Reread: Xen. *RL* 7.1-6; 14; Plut. *Lyc.* 9.1-10.1, 30.1.

Read: Plato *Rep.* 548AC. 550D; Aris. *Pol.* 1270a1133; Plut. *Lys.* 16.1-17.6 with Ephorus *FGH* 70 F 205; Theopompus 115 F 332; *Agis* 5.1-3; *Mor.* 226C-D (3), 228E (27), 238F, 239D-40A (41); [Plato] *Eryias* 400A-b; Polyb. 6.49.8-10; Just. 3.2.11-12; Ael. *VH* 14.29; Aris. fr. 550 Gigon; Athen. 6.233F with Posidonius *FGH* 87 F|48.

Consult: E. David, "The Influx of Money into Sparta at the End of the Fifth Century B.C.," *Scripta Classica Israelica* 5 (197980) 3045; David, *Sparta between Empire and Revolution* (New York 1981) 4350; Hodkinson *Property and Wealth* 399-445; Figueira "Iron Money and the Ideology of Consumption in Laconia," in S. Hodkinson and A. Powell (eds.) *Sparta: Beyond the Mirage*, (Swansea 2002) 137-70; also P. Oliva, *Sparta and Her Social Problems* 163197, which has almost

complete citations of the literature down to its date of publication.

December 13: Problem of *Oliganthrôpia* and the Decline of Sparta

Reread: Xen. *RL* 1.1.

Read: Xen. *Hellenica* 3.3.4-11; Aris. *Pol.* 1270a29-70b7; Plut. *Agis* 5.3-4.

Review: G.L. Cawkwell, "The Decline of Sparta," in Whitby *Sparta* 236-57.

Consult: G.E.M. de Ste. Croix, *The Origins of the Peloponnesian War* (London & Ithaca 1972) 33132.

Cartledge *Sparta and Lakonia* 263-72; *Agesilaos* 37-43, 165-70; Figueira "Population patterns in the late Archaic and Classical Sparta," *TAPA* 116 (1986) 165-213, esp. 187-211; "Helot Demography ...," in Luraghi & Alcock *Helots and their Masters* esp. 224-27.

PAPER TOPICS FOR 2004:

- 1) Unconventional Liaisons at Sparta: Trial Marriage, Abduction, and Polyandry
- 2) The Athenian Identity of Tyrtaeus
- 3) Alcman and the Problem of Spartan Austerity
- 4) Consumerism on Spartan pottery
- 5) Spartan Pederasty
- 6) Recent Theories on the Origins of Helotage
- 7) The Nature of the Spartan Age-Class Structure
- 8) Leitmotifs in Plutarch's *Spartan Sayings*
- 9) Cynic Appraisals of Spartan Culture
- 10) Spartan Nudity
- 11) Heroization of the Dead at Sparta
- 12) The Festival of the *Gymnopaïdai* and Social Conditioning at Sparta