

READINGS IN GREEK POETRY: SOLON & ARCHAIC ELEGY

(Classics 490:392)

Spring 2016

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I. Texts

M. L. West, *Iambi et elegi Graeci ante Alexandrum cantata*¹ (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1971-72) 2 vols.

_____, *Iambi et elegi Graeci ante Alexandrum cantata*² (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1989-92) 2 vols.

M. L. West, *Delectus ex iambis et elegis Graecis* (Oxford, OCT, 1980): containing all relevant passages except for Solon frs. 45-46W

David A. Campbell, *Greek Lyric Poetry: A Selection of Early Greek Lyric, Elegiac, and Iambic Poetry* (Bristol, 1967, 2003) : Solon #1 = fr. 13W; #3 = fr. 4W; #5 = fr. 5-7W; #10 = fr. 9W; #13 = fr. 23W; #19 = fr. 27W; #22 = fr. 20W; #22 = fr. 23W; #24 = fr. 36W.
Theognis 19-26, 39-52, 53-68, 173-182, 183-192, 237-254, 341-350, 667-682. Tyrtaeus # 8 = fr. 11W; #9 = fr. 12W

II. Requirements

Test I will be a self-administered exam to be anticipated in Week 7 of the course. It will be comprised primarily of translation and will constitute 20% of the final grade. Test II will be self-administered during exam week. Testing the material of the course comprehensively, it will comprise 25% of the course grade. Both tests will contain sight passages. Performance in class will constitute 25% of the grade. Undergraduates are to maintain a record of the passages from the assignments which have been prepared, as well as material translated in our sessions at sight. This course has a research requirement which may be discharged by an 8-12 page paper (30% of the grade) on a topic to be arranged with T. Figueira. Alternatively, students may choose to undertake a seminar-style report as described in the syllabus for the graduate section.

III. The Rationale for the Course

This course is intended to provide an understanding of archaic elegiac poetry not only by using the surviving verse of Solon, but also by considering the paths by which his poems have been transmitted to us. The contexts within which many of his fragments have been cited naturally illuminate the channels along which his work was preserved, but we also see in his remaining fragments, almost uniquely for archaic elegists, that citation and context offer interpretations, which, while they might be privileged through their access to a wider circle of texts and proximity to their subject, may also be erroneous in detail. Accordingly, we shall be

systematically reading background and contextual texts about the life and political activity of Solon. We shall purposefully juxtapose Solon and his poetry with the largest body of archaic elegiacs, the poetry of Theognis or *Theognidea* (terms used interchangeably by us) which is deracinated, decontextualized, and enigmatic. The conjunction in Solon of significant poetic production and crucial *nomothesia* ‘legislation’ is another unique quality, and it tends to unite Solon with archaic *sophoi* of the sort from which rosters of the Seven Sages were staffed. Finally, elegiac and iambic poetry from Tyrtaeus and Semonides will be introduced to offer still another layer of comparison and contrast. I have designed the course especially with an eye toward accommodating graduate students, post-baccalaureate students, and undergraduates.

IV. An Outline of Readings

Be sure to read the whole *lemma* in West’s edition, including the introductory material. All readings in Greek are listed inclusively, i.e., Plutarch *Solon* 8-10 naturally includes chapter 8. The topics for emphasis for each meeting are underlined headers. Where relevant, the report for each week follows the reading assignment in square brackets. Readings which are not central to undergraduate course responsibilities have been struck through below.

Week 1 (January 20): Introduction to course: Before meeting prepare these materials. Biography of Solon. **Read** *Suda* s.v. Σόλων, Ἐξηγεστίδου, σ 779 Adler (13 ll.¹); s.v. Δράκων, Ἀθηναῖος νομοθέτης, δ 1495 (10 ll.); s.v. Θεόγνις, Μεγαρεὺς, θ 136 (10 ll.). The Herodotean Solon. **Read** Hdt. 1.29.1-34.1 (137 ll.) ~~Note Hdt. 1.86.1-88.1.~~

Week 2 (January 27): The Herodotean Solon cont’d. Poetry of Solon. **Read** Plato *Timaeus* 21A-E (23); *Critias* 113A-B (15 ll.); *Phaedrus* 278B-D (13 ll.); ~~Proclus ad Plato *Tim.* 21b, 21e (11 ll.); ad Plato *Rep.* 1, p. 43 Kroll (7 ll.); p. 64 (20 ll.); Athen. 14.632D-E (8 ll.).~~ **Read also** Theognis 19-38 (20 vv.); 237-54 (18 vv.)

Week 3 (February 3): The recovery of Salamis. **Background:** ~~Aris. *Rhet.* 1375b28-34; Plutarch *Solon* 8-10 (121 ll.); Diogenes Laertius 1.46-48 (30 ll.); Dem. 19.251-53 (30 ll.).~~ **Read** Solon frs. 1-3W = 2 GP (8 vv.)

Week 4 (February 10): The human condition and *hybris/koros/atē* nexus. **Background:** Aris. *Pol.* 1256b26-39 (14 ll.); Plut. *Solon* 2.1-3.2 (36 ll.). **Read** Solon fr. 13W = 1 GP (76 vv.); fr. 14W = 19 GP (2 vv.); fr. 15W = 6 GP (4 vv.); fr. 17W = 21 GP (1 v.); fr. 23W = 17 GP (2 vv.); fr. 24W = 18 GP (10 vv.). **Review** Theognis 227-232 (= Solon 13.71-76), 315-318 (= Solon fr. 15), 585-590 (= Solon 13.65-70), 719-28 (= Solon fr. 24), 1253-1254 (= Solon fr. 23). **Read** Theognis 667-682 (16 vv.), 695-718 (24 vv.), 731-752 (22 vv.), 1255-156 (2 vv.).

Week 5 (February 17): The human condition and *hybris/koros/atē* nexus (cont’d). **Continue with last week’s assigned passages.** **Varia:** Solon fr. 29W = 25 GP (1 vv.); fr. 30W = 35 GP (1 vv.); fr. 30aW = 39 GP (2.5 ll.); fr. 38W = 32 GP (4 vv.); fr. 39W (3 ll.); fr. 40W = 34 GP (3 ll.); fr. 41 = 36 GP (1 l.); fr. 43 = 47 GP (3 ll.); fr. 45W (2 ll.); fr. 46W (3 ll.); fr. 38 GP (2 ll.).

¹ All line counts are derived from Loeb editions in order to achieve easy comparability.

- Week 6 (February 24): The building political crisis. **Background:** *Ath. Pol.* 5.1 (17 ll.); ~~Plut. Solon 14.1-4 (37 ll.); Dem. 19.254-55 (16 ll.); 256 (17 ll.)~~. **Read** Solon fr.4W = 3 GP (39 vv.), 4aW = 4 GP (2 vv.), 4cW (4 vv.) = 5 GP; fr. 16 = 20 (2 vv.). **Read** Theognis 39-52, 53-68 (30 vv.).
- Week 7 (March 2): Elegiac defense and refusal of tyranny. **Background:** *Ath. Pol.* 11-12 (25 ll.); ~~Plut. Solon 3.4-5 (10 ll.); fr. 18.1-5 (40 ll.)~~; *Plut. Comp. Sol. et Pub.* 2.1-3 (27 ll.). **Read** Solon fr. 5W = 7 GP (6 vv.); fr. 6W = 8 GP (4 vv.); fr. 31W = 40 GP (2 vv.); Theognis 337-340 (4 vv.); 341-350 (10 vv.), 367-70 (4 vv.), 823-824 (2 vv.), 1203-1206 (4 vv.). **Review** Theognis 153-154. [*Echoes of the Symposium in Solonian Poetry*]
- Week 8 March 9): Iambic retrospective defense. **Background:** *Ath. Pol.* 6.1-4 (27 ll.); 12.3-13.1 (13 ll.); *Plut. Solon* 14.5-15.2 (35 ll.); ~~15.5 (7 ll.); 16.1-3 (30 ll.); 25.4-5 (17 ll.)~~. **Read** Solon fr. 7W = 9 GP (1 v.); fr. 32W = 29 GP (5 vv.); fr. 33W = 29a (7 vv.); fr. 33aW (8 ll.); fr. 34W = 29b GP (9 vv.); fr. 36W = 30 GP (27 vv.); fr. 37 = 31 GP (9 vv.). [*Elegiac and Iambic Discourses in Archaic Poetry*]
- Week 9 (March 23): Iambic retrospective defense (cont'd). **Read also** Theognis 19-38 (20 vv.); 53-68 (16 vv.), 117-28 (12 vv.), 183-96 (14 vv.), 257-60 (4 vv.); Xen. fr. 3W = 3 GP (8 ll. + 6 vv.) [*Turannoi as arkhontes, basileis, and aisymnatai*]
- Week 14 (March 30): Familial and pederastic connections (esp. with Peisistratus): **Background:** *Ath. Pol.* 17.1-2 (15 ll.); *Plut. Solon* 1.1-4 (33 ll.); ~~Plut. Mor. 155E-F (21 ll.)~~. **Read** Solon fr. 22W (6 ll.); fr 22a = 22 GP (2 vv.); fr. 25W = 16 GP (2 vv.); fr. 26 = 24 GP (2 vv.); Theognis 371-372 (2vv.), 1101-1104 (4 vv.), ~~1247-1248 (2 vv.); 1263-1266 (4 vv.); 1353-1356 (4 vv.); 1377-80 (4 vv.)~~. **Review** Solon fr. 23 = 17 GP. Solon's Travels. **Background:** *Plut. Solon* 26.1-4 (24 ll.); *Vita Arati* 7.14-25 (7 ll.). **Read** Solon fr. 19 = 11 GP (6 vv.); fr. 28W = 10 GP (1 v.). [*Kyrnos vs Peisistratos*]
- Week 11 (April 6): The threat of tyranny & Peisistratos. **Background.** *Ath. Pol.* 14.2-3 (22 ll.); ~~Aelian VH 8.16 (25 ll.); DS 9.20.1-4 (19 ll.); 19.1.1-4 (20 ll.); DL 1.49-54 (61 ll.)~~; *Plut. Solon* 3.4-5 (7 ll.), 29.2-3 (15 ll.); 30.1-6 (47 ll.); ~~Nic. Chon. Urbs capta 1 (25 ll.)~~. **Read** Solon fr. 9 = 12 GP (6 vv.); fr. 11 = 15 GP (8 vv.); fr. 12W = 13 GP (2 vv.); fr. 35W (7 ll.); Theognis 1081-1082b (4 vv.). **Review** Theognis 39-52. [*Solon as Post-nomothetēs*]
- Week 12 (April 13): Life periods, aging and death. **Background:** ~~[Plato] Amat. 133A-C (26 ll.); DL 1.60-61 (11 ll.); Plut. Solon 2.2 (4 ll.); Comp. Sol. et Pub. 1.1-5 (38 ll.)~~. **Read** Solon fr. 18 = 28 GP (1 v.); fr. 20 = 26 GP (4 vv.); fr. 21 = 27 (2 vv.); fr. 27 = 23 GP (18 vv.). **Read** Mimnermos fr. 6. = 11 GP (2 vv.); Theognis 271-278 (8 vv.); 903-930 (28 vv.). [*Generational Separation in Archaic Thought*]
- Week 13 (April 20): Another elegiac poet (Tyrtaeus). **Read** the Testimonia of Tyrtaeus on West pp. 149-150. **Next Read** frs. 4-5 (8 vv.); frs 10-12 (114 vv.). [*Spartan Legitimacy in Tyrtaeus*]
- Week 14 (April 27): Another iambic poet (Semonides). **Read** the Testimonia of Semonides on West pp. 96-97. **Next Read** fr. 7 (118 vv.). [*Ideal and Counter-ideal in Semonidean Misogyny*]