



CLAS 4040-880

The Historian as Exile

MW 3:35-4:50 with Peter Hunt

Each of the three major historians from classical Greece was an exile from his city-state.

This striking fact provides the impetus and theme of this course on ancient Greek and Roman historiography. We'll start with a focus on how outsider status can shape the writing of history. More broadly, we'll investigate ancient historians' relationships to political power and their stated commitments (whether successful or not) to provide unbiased accounts. We'll get to read extensively in four of the most brilliant ancient historians (Herodotus, Thucydides, Sallust, and Tacitus) and the biographer Plutarch and to learn about two key periods of classical history: the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars of fifth-century BCE Greece and the fall of the Roman Republic and establishment of the Principate. NOTE: **There are NO PREREQUISITES for this class.** No prerequisites; no Greek or Latin required; no prior knowledge expected. Sign up today!