The University of Western Ontario
Department of Classical Studies

CLASSICAL STUDIES 2440B: ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Instructor: See OWL
Course Location: See OWL
Course Times: See OWL
Email: See OWL
Office: See OWL
Office Hours: See OWL.
Course Website: owl.uwo.ca

Note: This course will be conducted entirely in person.

Teaching Assistant: TBA
Email: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Alexander, depicted with his horse Bucephalas, fighting the Persian king Darius III in the Battle of Issus 333 BC, from the *Alexander Mosaic* of Pompeii, ca. 100 BC (National Archaeological Museum of Naples, Italy)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
During his short reign (336-323 BC) Alexander III of Macedon conquered the vast Persian empire and brought Greek culture to the mountains of Afghanistan and across the Indus River. Even though he was only thirty-two years old at the time of his death, he is arguably one of the most significant figures in all of recorded history. At the same time, almost every aspect of his life and legacy has been the subject of intense controversy. Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte admired him as a military genius. Modern scholars have called him a dreamer of the 'unity of mankind' (W. Tarn 1948) but also one of the 'worst monsters history has to offer' (V.D. Hanson 1999).
This introductory course will consider the rise of Philip II of Macedon to supremacy in the Greek world, Alexander's background and upbringing, his military campaigns, policies, plans, and personality. The reasons for the differing views about him will also be explored.
2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisites for this course.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR:
I am Dr. Bernd Steinbock and will be your instructor for this course. After studying Latin, Greek and History in Germany, my native country, I earned my PhD in Classic al Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I came to Western in 2005 and have served for many years as Undergraduate Chair in the Department of Classical Studies. If you have any questions about the courses and programs we offer, please come and talk to me either after class or during my office hours.

I generally teach both ancient Greek language and history courses. My teaching reflects my research interests, which lie at the point where history and literary texts intersect, since I view history as a dynamic discourse with texts as active participants. I am particularly interested in how people in the ancient world viewed their own past, what this past meant to them, and how it affected their political decision-making. My book *Social Memory in Athenian Public Discourse: Uses and Meanings of the Past* engages these issues.

In May 2025 my colleague Dr. Gino Canlas and I will lead Western students on an adventure-packed 2-week-long Study Tour to the most fascinating sites of the ancient Greek world. We will explore Athens, Sparta, and Mycenae, consult the oracle at Delphi and walk over the battlefields at Marathon and Thermopylae as well as Chaeronea, where Philip II of Macedon with the help of his young son Alexander completed his conquest of Greece. If you are planning to join our Study Tour to Greece in May 2025, come to our info session in October and submit an application.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of this course, successful students will be familiar with important events in 4th-century BC Greek history and will have gained a broad understanding of Philip II of Macedon's rise to supremacy in Greece and Alexander's conquest of the Persian empire. They will have learned key concepts (polis, Macedonian kingship, league of Corinth, Persian empire, etc.) and theoretical models (charismatic leadership, etc.), appropriate for the study of the social and political history of Greece, Macedonia, and the Persian Empire in the age of Alexander the Great. They will be able to assess and comment critically upon the problematic original source material for this period (to be found in the Sourcebook edited by Room) and test modern interpretations (such as discussed by Cartledge) against the ancient evidence. In so doing, students will develop an understanding of the limits of our knowledge of the ancient world and will come to appreciate the practice of History as an ongoing dialogue between past and present, where current models of interpretation are constantly being questioned, revised and refined, and tested against the available evidence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES / TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:
By the end of this course, students will have learned how to evaluate ancient source material for its reliability and significance. In doing so, they will develop the ability to gather, review and assess ancient literary, archaeological, and artistic sources as well as pertinent modern scholarly literature and be aware of the limitations of the available evidence. They will have improved their skills in critical thinking and analysis—skills which are transferrable to a variety of fields of study and professional employment, and which will improve their appreciation of any text.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
Cartledge, Paul. *Alexander the Great: The Hunt for a New Past.* New York: Vintage Books, 2005 (**ISBN-13**: 978-1400079193) (ca. 25$)
Romm, James (ed.). *Alexander the Great: Selections from Arrian, Diodorus, Plutarch, and Quintus Curtius.* Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2005 (**ISBN-13**: 978-0872207271) (ca. 22$)

EVALUATION:

Online Quizzes (5, lowest score will be dropped):	20%
In-Class Midterm Test (Feb. 13):	30%
Final Exam (cumulative) (April exam period):	50%

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EVALUATION:

1. Online Quizzes (5, lowest score will be dropped): 20%*

There are 5 bi-weekly multiple-choice quizzes in this course. Quizzes will be completed online using the Tests & Quizzes tool in OWL. The quizzes will be available for a 48-hour window and are due by 1 pm EST on Tuesdays as scheduled below. Each quiz will focus on the material from the previous two weeks of the course. The lowest mark will be dropped, with the remaining four quizzes each constituting 5% of the final grade. Students will have a 48-hour window to complete each quiz, but once they begin, they will have to complete the quiz within 15 minutes. It is up to the students to ensure they have a good internet connection and sufficient time to complete the quiz once started. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Questions will cover both assigned readings and lecture materials. Questions will occur in a randomized order and will be drawn from a large bank of questions, so that different students will see different sets of questions on each quiz. The structure of the quizzes is linear, which means that students will be able to view and complete one question at a time and will not be able to return to a previous question once they have moved on to the question. A missed quiz results in a mark of zero.

* **Flexibility Statements:** Please note that because the submission deadline for these Online Quizzes already includes flexibility in the form of the 48-hour submission window and not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade (since the lowest of the 5 quiz scores will be dropped), the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements, in other words, there will be no make-up quizzes for missed quizzes.

Quiz dates are:
Quiz 1: January 21, covering weeks 1-2
Quiz 2: February 4, covering weeks 3-4
[Midterm Test: February 13]
Quiz 3: March 4, covering weeks 5, 6, 8
Quiz 4: March 18, covering weeks 9-10
Quiz 5: April 1, covering weeks 11-12

2. In-Class Midterm Test (Feb. 13): 30%**

The Midterm Test will consist of multiple-choice questions and take place during class time on Thursday, February 13. Questions will cover both lecture materials and assigned readings. No aids are allowed. If you miss the Midterm Test due to illness or provable personal crisis, you must seek academic consideration from the Office of the Dean of your home faculty and provide documentation (see note on Policy on Consideration for Student Absences below).

** **Formal Documentation Designation statement:** Please note that this assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the opportunity to make up this work by writing a make-up exam. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

3. Final Exam (Cumulative): 50% [EXAM PERIOD IN APRIL]

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the exam period in April and be held in person. This exam consists of multiple-choice questions. It is cumulative and no aids are allowed. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of the assigned texts as well as of key concepts and ideas learned in the classroom. If you miss the Final Exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, you must seek academic consideration from the Office of the Dean of your home faculty and provide documentation (see note on Policy on Consideration for Student Absences below). The make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format as the original exam.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Students seeking **academic consideration** for any missed assignments (worth more than 10%) due to illness or provable personal crisis must **apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty** and provide documentation (see note on Policy on Consideration for Student Absences below). Make-ups **CANNOT** be granted by the instructor alone.
2. If you miss an exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, **you must also contact the instructor within 48 hours**. If you do not contact me, the grade of F will stand.
3. Students should note that missed quizzes will be counted as zeroes. Since the lowest of the 5 quiz scores will be dropped and each quiz only counts 5% of the course grade, there will be **no make-up quizzes** in the case of illness or personal crisis.
4. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for material they have missed. Students are encouraged to form study groups in order to assist each other in preparing for tests and for discussion of assigned readings.
5. There is no extra credit in this course; there will be no re-weighting of the course components.

E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

For e-mail correspondence, your Teaching Assistant (TA) should be your first contact for any questions about the course and its content that are not answered on the course outline or OWL website. Information about how to contact your Teaching Assistant will be posted on the Course Overview page on OWL. Please send all emails through your Western email account (@uwo.ca) to us. We will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since we cannot verify your identity (and many of these are sorted to spam).

CLASS COMMUNICATION:

Class will be notified of any class cancellations, room changes and other special announcements via the course website on OWL Brightspace.
Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. All course material will be posted to OWL: https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login.
If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800, or with a support ticket**:** create an OWL Brightspace service ticket.

TECHNICAL REQUIRMENTS:

This course requires you to have a reliable internet connection and a computer that meets the technical requirements for writing online timed assessments.

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

STUDENT ABSENCES
General information about missed coursework
Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: Accessible Education.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:
https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/
All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by policy).
- Midterm Test/Presentation/Group Project (***when*** designated by the instructor as the one assessment that always requires documentation when requesting Academic Consideration)

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility
By policy, instructors may deny Academic Consideration requests for the following assessments with built-in flexibility

Absences from Final Examinations
When a student misses the **Final Exam** [if applicable] and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar (Special Examinations), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Special Examinations
A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found here.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION: Academic Accommodation is "a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program." https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. "Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students" http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS: A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found here.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

STUDENT UWO EMAIL ACCOUNT: The website for the Office of the Registrar is http://www.registrar.uwo.ca.
In accordance with policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: No electronic devices will be permitted on tests and exams.

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools (such as Chat GPT) exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF PLAGIARISM-CHECKING SOFTWARE:
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

COPYRIGHT: Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

BRIGHTSPACE: All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: https://westernu.brightspace.com/. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled."

ACADEMIC COUNSELLING: Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE: Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, here. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS: Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC: Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, https://westernusc.ca/services/.

NOTE: The course requirements and/or grade weighting might change if the course has to be offered remotely.

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SYLLABUS

Textbook Reading Assignments:

C 27-40 = Cartledge, Paul. *Alexander the Great: The Hunt for a New Past.* New York: Vintage Books, 2005, p. 27-40

Sourcebook Reading Assignments:

R 17-22 = Romm, James (ed.). *Alexander the Great: Selections from Arrian, Diodorus, Plutarch, and Quintus Curtius.* Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2005, p. 17-22

OWL = course website at http://owl.uwo.ca

Note: some short additional readings will be supplied later and posted on OWL

Week	Date	#	Topic	Cartledge Textbook Readings	Romm Sourcebook Readings
Week 1	Tu Jan 7	1	Introduction: Alexander the Great	C 37-56	R vii-viii; xvi-xviii
	Th Jan 9	2	Historical background I: Greece 480-404 BC	C 63-80	R viii-x; xiv-vi
Week 2	Tu Jan 14	3	Historical background II: Greece 404-359BC	C 66-69	R xii-xiv
	Th Jan 16	4	Philip II of Macedon & the Macedonian military revolution	C 57-66	R x-xii
Week 3	Tu Jan 21	5	**[Quiz 1]** The young Alexander & Philip as master of Greece	C 81-88; 222-228	R 1-10
	Th Jan 23	6	Sources for history of Alexander's campaigns	C 267-287	R xviii-xxi
Week 4	Tu Jan 28	7	Philip's murder & Alexander's accession	C 89-97	R 10-16
	Th Jan 30	8	Alexander and the Greeks I: Destruction of Thebes and Panhellenic Crusade	C 107-122	R 17-32
Week 5	Tu Feb 4	9	**[Quiz 2]** Invasion of Persian Empire: Battle of Granicus	C 28-29; 41-42; 135-140	R 33-42
	Th Feb 6	10	From Granicus to Issus	C 30-31; 140-147	R 42-56
Week 6	Tu Feb 11	11	From Issus to Gaugamela	C 147-152	R 56-74
	Th Feb 13		**Midterm Test**		
Week 7	**Tu Feb 18**		**READING WEEK**		
	Th Feb 20		**READING WEEK**		
Week 8	Tu Feb 25	12	Alexander as General: The battle of Gaugamela	C 32; 151-152; 157-188	R 75-83
	Th Feb 27	13	Death of Darius & war in Bactria and Sogdiana	C 101; 152-156	R 84-93; 110-113
Week 9	Tu Mar 4	14	**[Quiz 3]** Internal problems: the conspiracy of Philotas & the *proskynesis* issue	C 97-104; 287-288	R 94-110
	Tu Mar 6	15	Invasion of India	C 104; 33; 182-	R 114-132

				184; 207-208	
Week 10	Tu Mar 11	16	Mutiny at the Hyphasis & march back to Susa	C 104-105; 208-210	R 132-148
	Th Mar 13	17	Last phase of Alexander's life	C 105-106; 210-218	R 149-173
Week 11	Tu Mar 18	18	**[Quiz 4]** Alexander and the Greeks	C 107-133	
	Th Mar 20	19	Alexander and the Persians & Alexander's kingship	C 135-156; 189-206	
Week 12	Tu Mar 25	20	The deification question & Alexander's sexuality	C 237-250; 228-231; 264, 343	
	Th Mar 27	21	Successors and the Hellenistic Age		
Week 13	Tu Apr 1	22	**[Quiz 5]** The legend and legacy of Alexander	C 251-266	
	Th Apr 3	23	How to understand and assess Alexander?	C 219-236; 264-266	
April Exam period			**Final Exam**		

N.B. This schedule is subject to revision if necessary