



Access 2009-2010

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Tutor: Linda Knox

Course Outline

As a subject Classical Civilisation deals with the civilisations of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and spans a period from the Bronze Age until the fall of the Roman Empire and beyond. It is a multi-disciplinary subject, involving the study of literature, history, philosophy and the art and archaeology of these civilisations. Primary texts are read in translation – there is no need for you to know or learn Greek or Latin in order to be able to study this subject, although at university level there are opportunities for students to do so if they wish. Classical Civilisation is available for study all the way through to Honours level in a university course.

The Access course deals with Greek civilisation only, and concentrates on Athens and her achievements in the fifth century BC - military, political, literary and material. However, we begin by reading Homer's *Odyssey*, and considering its context in the Greek world. Visual material illustrating the landscape, cities and sanctuaries of Greece will be used where appropriate.

This course should appeal to you if you have a specific interest in the ancient world, perhaps sparked by television documentaries or recent film epics. Alternatively you may appreciate its value as background to the study of literature or politics, or that it gives you a view of an earlier period of history than you have previously considered. You should be prepared for its multi-disciplinary nature, and expect to read texts as literature as well as learn about the history and culture of the Greeks.

If you decide that you would like to take this course you may find it interesting and beneficial to do some reading between now and the start of the course. The first text will be Homer *Odyssey*, Translated by E.V. Rieu, Revised by D.C.H. Rieu, Intro.by Peter Jones, (Penguin Classic 2003). For general reading you might like to try *The Oxford History of the Greek and Hellenistic World*, edited by Boardman, Griffin and Murray 2001, which contains self-contained chapters not only on history but also topics of literary and other interest, or S. C. Todd *Athens and Sparta* (Bristol Classical Press 1996, reprinted 2000).