OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES/READING LIST:
I will examine the topic of international trade in 5th century Athens as illuminated by the historical accounts of Herodotus and Thucydides, the dialogues of Plato and various ancient comedies and tragedies, hopefully finding evidence of attitudes and policies towards trading with other Greek city states and foreign nations. While perfect competition and a semi-orderly capitalist system did not exist in 5th century Athens, this does not mean that trade patterns and routes were not created. In fact, in an agricultural society trade would have had a greater impact on the economy than it does now, when internal markets are better organized.

I plan to use the independent study to craft two essays which will focus on basic international trade tenets such as opportunity costs, comparative advantage, behavioral consumption tendencies etc. On the other hand, I will also examine how costs associated with trade not acknowledged by economists in traditional models—such as transportation costs and conflict—affect the possibilities of trade and attitudes toward trade. One paper (the larger one) will be written as if to be published by a classics journal and the other (the smaller one) to be read by a wide audience without great familiarity with classics or economics.

GRADING/SCHEDULE:
In addition to the two completed essays on the topic, as described above, drafts will periodically be turned in to the instructor, as will an outline and working bibliography.

Working Bibliography (10% of overall grade): Monday, March 10
Outline (10% of overall grade): Monday, March 24
First Draft of Main Paper (20% of overall grade): Monday, April 7
Second Draft of Main Paper (20% of overall grade): Monday, April 21
Final Draft of Main Paper + Other Paper (40% of overall grade): Friday, May 9

WORKLOAD EQUIVALENCY:
Student and instructor will meet one hour per week over the course of the spring semester to consult (time/day TBA). and the rest of the student’s time will be spent researching and writing (ca 7 hours/week). The independent study will be 3 units at the 3xx level (CLAS 399).