Independent Study Proposal (599)
Fall 2011

A. Brief Description of Project

I intend to continue to research, revise and expand the paper I began last semester as part of the Greek Historians Course. I will look to broaden the scope of my research, partially through the incorporation of additional excerpts from Thucydides as well as a focus on the techniques Herodotus used to compose his narrative, and continue to strengthen the argument.

The paper investigates Herodotus as a worthy critic of Athenian democracy within his *Histories*. This paper first connects the portrayal of democracy in the Histories with that of Themistokles himself, demonstrating that Herodotus intended for the reader to make such a connection. Furthermore, I argue that the portrayal of Themistokles, including both the positive and negative traits, corresponds to the way in which Herodotus viewed democracy itself. By examining democracy with this approach, Herodotus no longer appears to simply ignore the obvious faults of Athenian democracy: instead, he provides a quite balanced picture of it. He sees the promise of a democratic system in Athens but his criticisms of that same system are as relevant and real as those of Thucydides writing decades later.

It is my goal to produce a paper ready for submission to a journal along with an abstract by the end of the semester. Also I will look to submit the abstract to several conferences, including CAMWS.

B. Reading List

Monographs


Articles


C. Syllabus

Number of Units: 3
Meeting Times: Friday 11:00-12:00
Method of Evaluation: The course will consist of two book reviews, an outline, a rough draft and a final copy of a single paper as well as an abstract.

F. Evaluation

Book Reviews (2) – 20% - 9/9, 12/2
Outline – 10% - 10/7
Rough Draft – 20% - 11/4
Abstract – 10% - 9/23
Final Copy – 40% - 12/2