

ROSALIND THOMAS, GREEK HISTORIOGRAPHY.

Trinity 2025. Ioannou Centre.

These lectures examine the development of Greek historiography and its importance within Greek society and culture. They will discuss the major historians - mainly Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, and Polybius to some extent; alongside this 'great historiography', they will also examine the wider circumstances in which history was written, why it was written; who read or listened to it; methods of enquiry; conceptions of the past and present which commanded attention. By including some of the more minor or less well preserved writers, esp. of 4th.c., they will examine the larger trends in historiography within Greek culture, and ask to what extent Herodotus or Thucydides provided the 'norm' for the emerging discipline.

Designed for students taking Greek History papers (GH1, GH2, GH3, and CAAH and AMH equivalents) and anyone interested in why and how Greeks wrote about the past.

Plan for lectures (with some room for alteration & manoeuvre).

- Week 1. Greek Historiography and its Origins: from Hecataeus and 'genealogical thinking' to the great historians. The canon and modern interpretations.
- Week 2. Mythoi, myths, legends: Herodotus and rationalisation; the case of Colonization, and the problem of origins.
- Week 3. Historie, ιστορίη, Enquiry and history: Herodotus and Thucydides.
- Week 4: Historiography and Medical enquiry: Herodotus and Thucydides and the relation of historiography to other emerging 'technai'.
- Week 5: Greek Historiography, Ethnography and the Persians (5th. and 4th. c.): from Herodotus to Ctesias and Herakleides.
- Week 6: Greek Historiography and speeches: history, philosophy and the construction of character, argument and debate. Why include speeches?
- Week 7: Writing History after Thucydides: Xenophon, Theopompus, Ephorus. The Fourth century and its models.
- Week 8: Historiography and different forms of knowledge: documentary, polis, local knowledge.