

# STAAC Class Description 2023-2024

Course Title: The Hellenistic World: Greece and Rome in Antiquity

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Teacher: Ryan Alcaino

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Grades: 6th through 8th grades

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Meeting Day(s): Thursdays Time(s): Time(s)

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Student minimum required for this course: 4 Maximum accepted 12

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## Course Description including any prerequisites or other requirements:

This will be an in-depth overview of the two most famous Mediterranean cultures - Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. The course will follow a linear path from the Mycenaean culture of Greece through the classical city state period, to Macedonian ascendance, and then a shift to Rome, the Republic, the Empire, and the eventual downfall, ending with a brief overview of what would become the Byzantine Empire, with stops at Ptolemaic Egypt and the provinces along the way. The only prerequisite will be a basic knowledge of Western Civilization up to the time of Ancient Greece.

## Costs

- Total Tuition: \$300.00 per student, \$140.00 per sibling/additional student
- **Payment Option 1:** Full amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid on July 1st.
- **Payment Option 2:** Split amount of \$150.00 as two payments due on July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Venmo information: Teacher Venmo. (Venmo is the preferred payment method)
- Checks made out to: Teacher name
- and mailed to: Teacher address

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## Student Responsibilities and Expectations

All students will be required to attend as often as possible and expected to engage with the discussion and the class. The class is an interactive/lecture style with meaningful learning occurring during discussions as well as direct lecture. The expectation is for each student to be respectful to the instructor and each other, and refrain from any disruptive or loud behavior outside of participation within the context of the class. No cell phones or devices will be permitted to be used outside of established break times.

## Grading Breakdown

Grades will consist of quizzes, a midterm and final writing assignment, and two individual presentations in front of the class during the course of the year on a specific aspect or detail of the history being covered. The grading will break down as follows:

5 Quizzes - 5 points each = 25 points possible

Midterm Writing Assignment - 20 points possible

Final Writing Assignment - 25 points possible

2 Individual Presentations - 15 points each = 30 points possible

Total Points possible = 100

## Textbooks and Supplies Required

Notebooks for taking notes - as many as needed per the student's preference for taking notes - spiral bound, 3 ring binders, etc. are all acceptable.

Pencils/Pens as needed

\*Laptops/iPads/Kindles/Tablets are not acceptable due to the potential of inattention and distracting programs, games, etc.\*

Textbooks are not required but encouraged - recommended list to follow. Note - these will be easily accessible, easily found books that don't break the bank.

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## Teacher Biography

I am Ryan Alcaino, an instructor entering my 4th year at Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy. To this point, I have taught Physics and History (Western Civilization) for the 3rd/4th grade classes at STAA. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UAB, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Auburn University, and am completing a 2nd Master's Degree in History at the University of North Alabama.

My Master's Thesis is a study on the survival of Punic culture, religion, and language into the Roman period of the 1st-5th centuries AD in North Africa.

## Teacher Contact Information

Ryan Alcaino

(205) 901-3614

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## Additional Information

The graded assignments in this class - the quizzes, writing assignments, and presentations - can all be passed without purchasing or acquiring the recommended textbooks, however it will require regular attendance and paying attention in class. The quizzes (pop quizzes) will be randomized throughout the 24 week class schedule, but they will concern the relevant information covered in the time period since the last quiz.

The Midterm writing assignment requires the student to write a minimum 2 page, double spaced analysis of a particular topic from the first half of the class. The student will choose from 3 different questions I will pose, and then present the assignment during the class prior to the Christmas break, with grades to be announced on the last week.

The Final writing assignment requires the student to select their own specific topic that interests them about the class - Greece or Rome or something in between - and write a minimum 4 page, double spaced analysis of this topic, utilizing external sources and citations - sources found on the internet are fine but must be from actual published books, journals, articles, etc. This is an opportunity for the student to explore something that appeals to them in the history, to use their critical thinking skills, and to express themselves in written form, all while providing practice for proper citing for high school and beyond.

The 2 Individual Presentations are a mini exercise in critical thinking about specific events, people, figures, or aspects of the history we will be exploring. These will be oral presentations in front of the class, no more than 5 minutes long, where the student will briefly but succinctly discuss their topic in some detail. These presentations will be broken up over 2-3 weeks of class per semester depending on class size, so each student will have ample time to speak.