COURSE DETAIL

THE CITY-STATE
Country Ireland
Host Institution University of Galway
Program(s) University of Galway
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History Classics
UCEAP Course Number 105
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE CITY-STATE
UCEAP Transcript Title THE CITY-STATE
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.70

Course Description

This course examines the evidence for one of the most successful forms of state society in the ancient Mediterranean, namely the polis or city-state, making use of evidence from archaeology, ancient history, epigraphy, numismatics, and ancient literature. It explores the emergence of the first city-states in Greece following a period of economic decline, the so-called Greek “Dark Age” and slow recovery. The key features of the city-state and particularly the features of the urban environment are discussed as are the political structures required to govern large urban populations. The re-emergence of writing, in an alphabetic system, is given attention due to the importance of written law and constitutions for social and political stability. The course considers different systems of government used at various city-states and the economic and social systems that emerge alongside and within the various poleis. The connection between the emergence of the polis and the foundation of new Greek communities overseas – colonization – are discussed. The course makes a comparative study of early constitutional history of Athens and Sparta. The invention of coinage is studied as are relations between different Greek city-states. The course concludes with a consideration of the first contact and conflicts between the world of the city-states and the imperial power of Persia.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
CC2104

Host Institution Course Title
THE CITY-STATE

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.nuigalway.ie/course-information/module/CC2104

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Classics
Course Last Reviewed 2021-2022

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