

**HIST 1100:
Founders of the West, 1000 BCE -600 CE**

**PROJECT
HANDBOOK**

for

**POLITICAL DEBATE
&
PRESENTATION/
SOURCE ANALYSIS**

**Spring 2017
Markman**

Week 9 (Tues. 03/14 & Thurs. 03/16), we will be hosting a debate in class.

THE SCENARIO

After nearly three decades of war, Sparta has crushed democratic Athens, destroyed its warships and great walls, and installed a brutal regime, the “Thirty Tyrants.” Their bloody excesses led to a brief civil war as a result of which the tyrants were expelled and democracy restored. But questions remain... Is democracy an effective mode of governance?

The year is 403 B.C.E. and it is time to rebuild Athens. Representatives of ten leading statesmen (dead and alive), philosophers, and historians have agreed to hold a symposium to debate their political vision. The goal is to create a lasting and stable government for Athens. Three representatives of each school of thought will be in attendance. The symposium will be held on neutral ground in Los Angeles, California on Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16.



THE PARTICIPANTS

The symposium will be attended by **three** representatives from each of the following schools of thought:

STATESMEN

Lycurgus – military communalism

Solon – timocracy

Pericles – (populist) democracy

Thrasylbulus – (radical) democracy

PHILOSOPHERS

Plato

Aristotle

Epicureans

Stoics

HISTORIANS

Thucydides

Xenophon

FORMAT

Part 1: The Four Options (Tues. 03/14)

Before we can debate the nature of effective democracy, we must understand the options. Our symposium will begin with presentations on the proposed state reforms by representatives of Pericles, Thrasybulus, Solon, and Lycurgus.

Part 2: The Debate (Tues. 03/14 – Thur. 03/16)

Informed decision-making requires careful consideration of pros and cons. After hearing the presentations by representatives of Pericles, Thrasybulus, Solon, and Lycurgus, each member of your group will spend at least 5 minutes in the “hot seat” defending the views of your assigned statesman, philosopher, or historian against rival schools of the thought. *Note: Since you will be playing the role of a representative and proponent of your assigned political theorist, you will be asked questions directly and should be prepared to answer in first person (I, we, our belief, etc.)*

The following questions may be asked by the debate mediator (me):

1. What should be the purpose and function of a state?
2. Is democracy an effective form of governance? If not, what form of government is preferable?
3. Is democracy best organized through direct participation or through representatives?
4. How should leaders and magistrates be chosen?
5. Should citizenship be broadened to include slaves who fought for the democracy during the wars and foreign-born metics who paid taxes in its support?
6. Must citizens receive special education or training to be entitled to participate in government?
7. Should people who have experienced grievous wrongs seek reconciliation or retributive justice?
8. Can a powerful democracy, to ensure its own security, impose its will on other countries?
9. Can the people rightfully resist and/or overthrow their leadership?

The Surprise: At any time during the debate, Athens might be faced with a military or economic catastrophe. As the brightest political theorists of the 5th century B.C.E., it will be up to us to pause our debate and solve the crisis.



PREPARATION FOR STATESMEN

Goal: You are a practical thinker and you are ready to put your reforms into effect. You must convince your fellow statesmen, philosophers, and historians that you have devised the best system of government.

Presentation: On Tues. 03/14, one of your representatives will give a 5-7 minutes presentation detailing your plans for political reform to the symposium. Make sure to explain your qualifications and include visual aids (e.g. Powerpoint).

Debate: Be prepared to defend your statesmen's political position! Two representatives will be called to the "hot seat."

Research Report: On Tuesday 03/14, before we commence the debate, your group will **submit a research report along with two rough drafts that show evidence of revision**. All documents must be submitted in hard copy.

Prompt: Most of what we know about Greek statesmen comes down to us from the writing of later historians. Write a report explaining what primary sources are available for the study of your assigned statesman and why these sources might be historically problematic.

Format: 2-3 pages, double spaced, 12pt font, 1-inch margins

Submit: Final Report + 2 Drafts



PREPARATION FOR PHILOSOPHERS AND HISTORIANS

Goal: You are highly skeptical of statesmen. Based upon your study of history, you believe that they rush into decisions too quickly and their actions often lead to catastrophe. You must help the statesmen to consider the pros and cons of governance.

Debate: After the statesmen complete their presentations, you will be called into the “hot seat” to defend your political ideas.

Primary Source Analysis: On Tuesday 03/14, before we commence the debate, your group will submit one primary source analysis paper with a clearly articulated historical question, two rough drafts that show evidence of revision, and a copy of the primary source. All documents must be submitted in hard copy.

Step 1: Choose an excerpt (3-4 pages) that we did not read in class from a primary source written by your assigned philosopher or historian:

Plato – *The Republic*

Aristotle – *Politics*

Epicureans – “Key Doctrines” or *Letter to Menoecus*

Stoics – Epictetus, *Discourses*

Thucydides – *The Peloponnesian War*

Xenophon – *Hellenica* or *Cyropaedia*

Step 2: Read the document and discuss with your group members.

Step 3: Formulate a historical question: What does this documents reveal about _____?
(Note: You could use one the potential debate questions.)

Step 4: Write a 2-3 page response to your historical question. Make sure to briefly introduce your source and provide a clear thesis that addresses your historical question.

Step 5: Circulate the primary source analysis among your group members for revision. Revise twice!

Format: 2 pages, double spaced, 12pt font, 1-inch margins. Make sure to briefly introduce your source and provide a clear thesis statement. Don't forget to cite examples from the source to support your analysis.

Submit: Final Draft with historical questions + 2 Rough Drafts + primary source

Finding sources should be a fun and interesting experience, not a laborious task. Here are some tips:

1. Start by reviewing the Hannon Library’s guide to finding primary sources:
<http://libguides.lmu.edu/c.php?g=323806&p=3141247#s-lg-box-9679878>
2. Ask a librarian for help. You can now do that online: <http://library.lmu.edu/gethelp/>
3. Schedule a research consultation with a librarian:
<http://library.lmu.edu/forms/researchconsultationrequestform/#d.en.3009>
4. Don’t wait until the last minute. The book or source that you need might be checked out or only available at a different library. If you wait until the last minute, there is a chance that you will not receive the source in time to complete the project and analysis.