# **DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:** HY 3021 ALEXANDER'S LEGACY: THE HELLENISTIC WORLD **UK LEVEL: 5 UK CREDITS:15** (Previously: Alexander III, the Great) **US CREDITS: 3/0/3** (Updated Fall 2025) N/A **PREREQUISITES: CATALOG** Exploration of the multi-cultural Hellenistic world, from the reign of **DESCRIPTION:** Alexander the Great (336-323 BCE) to the expanding Roman world in the first century BCE; campaigns and conquests of Alexander, the wars of succession, and the history of the Hellenistic kingdoms down to the death of Cleopatra VII (30 BCE); emphasis on political histories, institutions and ideologies, as well as social and cultural developments. **RATIONALE:** The Hellenistic period was a period of innovation and cultural interaction amongst the peoples of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Set against a highly complex political background, Greek language and culture spread all the way to Central Asia, new institutions and innovate ideas appeared in science and philosophy, traditional religious beliefs and cults were fundamentally transformed, and literature and the visual arts flourished. **LEARNING OUTCOMES:** As a result of taking this course, students should be able to: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the chronology, geography, structures and institutions of the Hellenistic world. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of the political, social and cultural developments that shaped the Hellenistic world. 3. Examine critically and contextually contemporary textual and material sources. 4. Develop critical and reflective skills when approaching questions and problems in the history of the Hellenistic world through discussion, debate, and written analysis. **METHOD OF TEACHING AND** In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, **LEARNING:** the following tools are used: Lectures and class discussions on secondary material and some primary sources Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to

- students
- Use of library facilities for further study and preparation for the exams
- Use of the Blackboard site to further support communication, by lecture notes, assignment instruction, announcements, formative guizzes and online submission of assignments.

## **ASSESSMENT:**

#### Summative:

1 <sup>st</sup> assessment: Group project	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment: Term Paper (2,500 words)	50%
3.Final assessment: Final examination: (essay –	40%
type questions with choice involved)	

#### Formative:

Active participation in class discussions	0%
Annotated bibliography and draft paper	0%

The 1<sup>st</sup> summative assessment tests LO 4
The 2<sup>nd</sup> summative assessment tests LOs 3, 4
The final summative assessment tests LOs 1, 2
Formative assessments prepare students for the exams

Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.

## **INDICATIVE READING:**

## **REQUIRED READING:**

Graham Shipley, *The Greek World after Alexander 323-30 B.C.*, New York: Routledge, 2000

Michel Austin, The Hellenistic World from Alexander the Great to the Roman Conquest: A Selection of Ancient Sources in Translation, Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed. 2006

Andrew Erskine, ed, A *Companion to the Hellenistic World,* Oxford: John Wiley & Sons, 2005.

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**

Paul Cartledge, Alexander the Great, New York: Vintage, 2005

James S. Romm and Pamela Mensch, *Alexander the Great: Selections from Arrian, Diodorus, Plutarch, and Quintus Curtius*, Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co., 2005.

Claude Mosse, *Alexander: Destiny and Myth*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

Peter Green, From Alexander to Actium: The Historical Evolution of the Hellenistic Age, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990

Peter Thonemann, *The Hellenistic Age*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016

Joseph Pietrikowsky, Great Battles of the Hellenistic World, Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military, 2009

Francois Chamoux, Hellenistic Civilization, Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003

Glen R. Bugh, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006

Robin Waterfield, *Dividing the Spoils: The War for Alexander the Great's Empire*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012

Andrew Stewart, Faces of Power: Alexander's Image and Hellenistic Politics, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993

	Getzel Cohen, <i>The Hellenistic settlements in Syria, the Red Sea Basin, and North Africa</i> , Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006			
	Getzel Cohen, <i>The Hellenistic settlements in the East from Armenia and Mesopotamia to Bactria and India</i> , Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013			
	Zosia H Archibald, John K. Davies and Vincent Gabrielsen, <i>The economies of Hellenistic societies, third to first centuries BC</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011			
	Joseph G, Manning, <i>The Last Pharaohs: Egypt under the Ptolemies 305-30 BC,</i> Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010			
	Rachel Mairs, <i>The Hellenistic Far East: Archaeology, Language, and Identity in Greek Central Asia</i> , Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014			
	Helmut Koester, <i>History, Culture and Religion of the Hellenistic Age,</i> New York: De Gruyter, 1995			
	Ryan Boehm, City and empire in the age of the successors: urbanization and social response in the making of the Hellenistic Kingdoms, Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2018			
	Lucilla Burn, Hellenistic Art: From Alexander the Great to Augustus, Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2004			
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	<ol> <li>Participate intelligently in lectures and class discussions with the instructor and fellow students</li> <li>Produce clear, well-structured and intelligent pieces of work</li> </ol>			
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	MSOffice; Blackboard CMS			
WWW RESOURCES:	https://lstmuse.com/frames/index.html Alexander the Great: From History to Eternity, detailed, illustrated web site on the biography of Alexander the Great			
	https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/asbook08.asp#Hellenistic %20World Ancient History Sourcebook: The Hellenistic World with a wide range of primary source documents			
	https://www.worldhistory.org/ World History Encyclopaedia with maps, definitions, articles, illustrations, 3D images and short videos			
	http://www.fhw.gr/chronos/06/ Foundation of the Hellenic World: the Hellenistic period, includes summaries of developments in politics, society, economy, and culture			
	https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/hellenistic/v/barberini-faun-c-220-b-c-e Khan Academy Hellenistic Art with articles, short videos, and practice questions			
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	Part I: Alexander the Great: conqueror and visionary  1. The Greek and Macedonian Background			

3. After Alexander: The emergence of the Hellenistic World

Part II: The Hellenistic Kingdoms

- 1. Ptolemaic Egypt
- 2.The Seleukid kingdom in Asia
- 3. The Attalids of Pergamon
- 4. Macedonia and mainland Greece

Part III: Society and Economy

- 1. Kingship
- 2. Hellenistic cities
- 3. Greeks and others
- 4. The economy

Part IV: Religion and Philosophy

- 1. Hellenistic religions
- 2. Divine kingship
- 3. Hellenistic Philosophy

Part V: Arts and Sciences

- 1. Medicine and Health
- 2.Hellenistic Science
- 3. Literature and its contexts
- 4. Hellenistic Art