Semester: 1	
Programme: History	
Course : Themes and Issues in the History of Ancient Greece	
Paper code: C1HS230121T	**Credits: 4**
Hours/week : 4	
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: CORE (Major)	
Theory / Practical / Composite: Theory	
No of Module : 2	

Course Overview: This course explores the political, social, and cultural dynamics of Ancient Greece, focusing on the evolution of the Greek Polis, the contrasting systems of Spartan Oligarchy and Athenian Democracy, and the pivotal Peloponnesian War. Students will examine the intellectual leap from myth to history through the works of Herodotus and Thucydides, alongside an analysis of Greek religion, philosophy, and art. The curriculum traces the rise and fall of city-states, the nature of empire, and the lasting legacy of Hellenic civilization.

Course Outcome:

1. **Define the fundamental structure of the Greek Polis and outline the key events, figures, and phases of the Peloponnesian War, including the Sicilian Expedition and the defeat of Athens.**
2. **Explain the distinct social and political organizations of Sparta and Athens, differentiating between the Peloponnesian League and the Athenian Empire.**
3. **Apply the historical methodologies of Herodotus and Thucydides to interpret specific events, demonstrating how the transition from logographers to formal history writing changed the understanding of the past.**
4. **Analyze the socioeconomic and political factors that led to the rise of Athenian Democracy and contrast them with the causes contributing to the eventual decline of the Polis system.**
5. **Critically evaluate the role of Thucydides in shaping the narrative of the Peloponnesian War, assessing how his specific focus on "causes" and "debates" influences modern historical perspectives.**
6. **Formulate a comprehensive argument connecting Greek cultural elements—such as religion, philosophy, and games—to the political identity of the city-states, hypothesizing how these cultural bonds persisted despite political fragmentation.**

Prerequisites: *Basic knowledge about any prior course*

SYLLABUS

UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	1.The Greek Polis and its Organization (6 Lectures) 1) Overview of the origin, structure, society and economy of the Polis	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	2) Causes of the decline of the Polis.		CO6	
	2: The Spartan Oligarchy (6 Lectures) 1) Social, economic and political organization 2) The Peloponnesian League and its structure.			
	3: Athenian Democracy (6 Lectures) 1) Development of the social, political and economic structure 2) The Athenian empire, its development and nature			
II.	1: The Peloponnesian War (6 Lectures) 1) Background, causes, war preparations, and the opinions of Thucydides 2) Major events – the plague and the funeral oration, important debates 3) The Sicilian Expedition and the defeat of Athens	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	2: History as a discipline (6 Lectures) 1) The emergence of history – from the logographers to Herodotus. 2) Herodotus' history writing and its significance. 3) Thucydides' ideas and practice of history writing.			
	3: Greek Culture (6 Lectures) 1) Greek religion – Homeric God and Mystery cults. 2) Games and sports 3) Greek philosophy, education, literature and art.			

Text Books

- John Boardman, The Oxford History of Greece and the Hellenistic World
- John Boardman, Greek Art
- Sarah B Pomeroy, Ancient Greece: A Political Social and Cultural History

- JP Bury, History of Greece
- Robin Osborne – Classical Greece
- JF Lazenby – The Peloponessian War: A Military Study
- N.G.L. Hammond – A History of Greece to 322 BC
- Thomas R. Martin – Ancient Greece
- Robin Osborne – Classical Greece
- G. Grote – History of Greece: From Solon to 403 BC.
- JP Bury, History of Greece
- Richard Clogg, A Concise History of Greece

Suggested readings
- Bury, Cook and Adcock – Athens 478 – 410 BC
- Donald Kagan, The Peloponnesian War
- Simon Hornblower, The Greek World 478-323 BC
- T James Luce, The Greek Historians
- Konrad H. Kinzl, A Companion To The Classical Greek World
- Mogens Herman Hansen, Polis An Introduction to the Ancient Greek City-State
- Philip Brook Manville The Origins of Citizenship in Ancient Athens
- John V. A. Fine - The Ancient Greeks: A Critical History
- H. M. Jones - The Athenian Democracy
- John Thorley - Athenian democracy

Web Resources

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Evaluation : Theory CIA: 5(CIA)+20(Mid Sem)+5 (Attendance)=30
Semester Exam: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam:
Total Marks: 70
Two modules of 35 marks each.
(3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: 3X5=15
2 questions of 10 marks from 3 options: 2X10=20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Define the fundamental structure of the Greek Polis and outline the key events, figures, and phases of the Peloponnesian War, including the Sicilian Expedition and the defeat of Athens.	K1
CO2	Explain the distinct social and political organizations of Sparta and Athens, differentiating between the Peloponnesian League and the Athenian Empire.	K2
CO3	Apply the historical methodologies of Herodotus and Thucydides to interpret specific events, demonstrating	K3

	how the transition from logographers to formal history writing changed the understanding of the past.		
CO4	Analyze the socioeconomic and political factors that led to the rise of Athenian Democracy and contrast them with the causes contributing to the eventual decline of the Polis system.	K4	
CO5	Critically evaluate the role of Thucydides in shaping the narrative of the Peloponnesian War, assessing how his specific focus on "causes" and "debates" influences modern historical perspectives.	K5	
CO6	Formulate a comprehensive argument connecting Greek cultural elements—such as religion, philosophy, and games—to the political identity of the city-states, hypothesizing how these cultural bonds persisted despite political fragmentation.	K6	