

Historiographical Style

Trinity Term 2022

Wednesday, 4.30–6.00 p.m.

Brief Description: This seminar has a two-fold purpose: first, to introduce students to the theoretical writings of Greeks and Romans on the styles thought suitable for historical writing; and second, to examine individual passages in the historians themselves to see how they shape and construct their narratives. In the theoretical writings we shall look at the kinds of things the critics focus on, the language they use to describe the narrative's features, and points of intersection with criticism of other prose forms (especially oratory). For the historians themselves we shall examine things such as word-order, word-choice, structure (periodic or otherwise), prose rhythm, 'poetic' flourishes, indirect vs direct discourse, and any other items that may be of interest to students. The last two weeks of the seminar will be reserved for student presentations. Students may choose from passages provided or may offer passages of their choice.

Schedule of Presentations

27 April	Introduction (J. Marincola)
4 May	Herodotus (A. Bowie)
11 May	Thucydides (T. Rood)
18 May	Livy (C. S. Kraus)
25 May	Battle of Cunaxa in Xenophon, Diodorus, and Plutarch (L. Huitink)
1 June	Tacitus (S. Malloch)
8 June	Student Presentations I
15 June	Student Presentations II