

Greek historiography – from Herodotus to Polybius

Trinity Term 2026

Ioannou Centre, Lecture Theatre
Wednesdays, 11 am

These 8 lectures offer a thematic and chronological overview of Greek historiography, with a focus on Herodotus and Thucydides. It is designed for students taking Greek History papers (GH1, GH2, GH3, and CAAH and AMH equivalents) and anyone interested in why and how Greeks wrote about the past.

Plan of the lectures

1st week

Herodotus ‘father of history’

2nd week

Herodotus and the world: geography and ethnography

3rd week

Herodotus and politics

4th week

Thucydides is not a colleague – or is he?

5th week

Thucydides and the art of speech

6th week

A parallel world? Local historiography between politics and antiquarianism

7th week

Writing Greek history between Thucydides and Polybios: from the world of the polis to the world of the kings

8th week

Wunderkind to survivor: life and works of Polybius of Megalopolis

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