



History and Political Science

HIS 4087 Ancient Historians

4 Units

Fall 2025☼

**Meeting days/times (MW 4pm-5:15)**

**Meeting location (Colt 120)☼**

**Final Exam: (Monday, Dec. 15, 4:30pm-7pm)☼**

Information	Specifics for the Course
Instructor title and name:	R. Kennedy
Phone:	619-849-2537
Email:	rkennedy@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Colt 209 MW: 9:45am-11, 1pm-4 Tu-Thur: 9:45am - noon Fri: 9:45am-11

**PLNU Mission☼**

**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**Course Description☼**

With this course we hope to learn not only ancient history as told by ancient historians; but also to think about how the discipline of history was perceived and practiced in the ancient Mediterranean world. The course is heavily oriented toward reading and discussion.

## Program and Course Learning Outcomes☼

1. Students will be able to evaluate and interpret various types of primary sources.
2. Students will be able to identify the roots of modern historiography in ancient sources.
3. Students will be able to identify the most distinctive people and events written about in the ancient history of West Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean.
4. Students will be able to articulate the differences between historiographical reasonableness and scientific/philosophical rationality.

## Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources\*

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Herodotus, *The Histories*  
Eusebius, *The Ecclesiastical History*  
Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*  
Tacitus, *The Annals*  
Josephus, *Life and Antiquities*

### Grading:

Attendance 25%, Assignments 25%, 3 Presentations 25%, Final 25%

Students will bring notebooks to class every day and be asked to read from them to the class. Students are responsible for all emails sent by the professor to PLNU email addresses.

### Three Presentations:

In concert with your professor, pick a person, event, or situation of some sort (a river, the delta, a port, town, a painting, etc.) related to three of the books we are discussing.

You and your professor will agree on a topic.

You will orally present in class at the document projector a 10 minute presentation.

The presentation will include:

1. A handwritten paragraph (from each student) stating the topic, **the importance of the topic**, and information to support the importance. The **importance of the topic** is where presenters must be most thoughtful and creative, relating a person, place, or event to big issues discussed in class.
2. Presentations include a hand-drawn map (from each student) that relates directly to the topic.

Presentations will be graded on the basis of evident effort.

## Course Credit Hour Information☼

**Note:** In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a \_4\_ unit class delivered over \_14\_ weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated \_150\_ total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

**Class Titles:**

9/3 Introduction: Scribal Culture, Liberal Arts, & Historiography

9/8 Herodotus 1

9/10 Herodotus 2

9/15 Herodotus 3

9/17 Herodotus 4

9/22 Herodotus 5

9/24 Herodotus 6

9/29 Herodotus 7

10/1 Thucydides bk 1 and Polybius 1.1 & 12

10/6 Livy 1 Founding of Rome

10/8 Livy 2 Beginnings of the Republic

10/13 Suetonius 1 Julius Caesar

10/15 Suetonius 2 Augustus

10/20 Suetonius 3 & 6 Tiberius & Nero

10/22 Luke of Antioch *Bios* of Jesus

10/27 Luke of Antioch *Acts* 1-15

10/29 Luke of Antioch *Acts* 16-28

11/3 Suetonius 10 & 11 Vespasian and Titus

11/5 Josephus *Life* and *Antiquities* bk 11 (Cyrus to Alexander)

11/10 Tacitus *Annals* chaps 1, 5, 6

11/12 Tacitus *Annals* chaps 6, 10, 11

11/17 Eusebius 1

11/19 Eusebius 2

11/24 Eusebius 3

12/1 Eusebius 4

12/3 Eusebius on Clement and Origen of Alexandria

12/8 Review

12/10 Review

Final Exam Policy: Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

#### Content Warning\*

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In [class name], all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

#### Trigger Warning\*

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In [class name], we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include [list topics]. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole

purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

### Incompletes and Late Assignments

### Spiritual Care\*

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

### State Authorization☼

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. **Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.**

### PLNU Copyright Policy☼

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

### PLNU Recording Notification☼

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

### PLNU Academic Honesty Policy☼

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing

grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy ☼

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

### PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy ☼

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

## Language and Belonging\*

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

## Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination\*

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/bias](http://www.pointloma.edu/bias)

## PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy★

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

## Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work

toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: [writingcenter@pointloma.edu](mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu)