

# From Athens to Rome: Ancient Historians

*Explore timeless lessons on leadership*

OVERVIEW	
Period	Spring term 2025
Data	January 29 - May 21 2025 16 weeks of class - 2 hours per week Every Wednesday 14.30 - 16.30 No class on March 26 (vacation)
Location	Rapenburg 6, Leiden
Language	English / Dutch
Cost	€2.195 per semester <i>There are various foundations providing scholarships for students. Many students already attended via a scholarship.</i>
Teacher	Mr. Gerard Versluis and Dr. Jordi Wiersma
Dean	Gerard Versluis
Email	aanmeldingen@pascalinstituut.nl

## Course description

In this seminar, you read some of the greatest ancient historians, such as Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch, and Tacitus. You will explore the rise and fall of Athens and Rome, you will confront enduring questions such as: what is the connection between democracy and empire? Why do different forms of government give way to one another? How can civil concord be achieved and civil war avoided? You will pay special attention to the role of leadership, with students reflecting on the virtues and vices of the great men of classical antiquity by reading the lives of Pericles, Caesar, Augustus, and others.

## Course schedule

Date	Reading	Teacher
Jan 29	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> , I	Versluis
Feb 5	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> , II, 1-3, 50-53, 112-120; III, 27-38, 61-88, 150-160; IV, 1, 121-142; V, 35-38, 49-51, 55, 91-93, 97-105; VI, 46-72, 94-120	Versluis
Feb 12	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> , VII, 1-60, 99-152, 172-239	Versluis
Feb 19	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> , VIII, 1-117; IX, 1-19, 58-122	Versluis
Feb 26	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , I, 1-88, 118-125, 139-146; II, 1-24, 34-46	Versluis
Mar 5	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , II, 47-78; III, 1-85; IV, 1-41	Versluis
Mar 12	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , IV, 78-116; V, 1-26, 40-74, 84-116; V, 1-26, 40-74, 84-116; VI, 1, 8-32	Versluis
Mar 19	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , VI, 33-61, 89-105; VII.	Versluis
Mar 26	<i>No class: vacation</i>	
Apr 2	Plutarch, <i>Lives</i> , Alexander	Wiersma
Apr 9	Plutarch, <i>Lives</i> , Caesar, Cato the Younger	Wiersma
Apr 16	Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> , I-II	Versluis

Apr 23	Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> , IV-VI	Wiersma
Apr 30	Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> , XIII-XV	Wiersma
May 7	Gibbon, <i>Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> , I-III	Wiersma
May 14	Gibbon, <i>Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> , XV	Wiersma
May 21	Examination	

## Admission standards

Advanced students in all fields. Recently graduated or professional: you are very welcome too.

## Instruction and examination

All class sessions will be conducted as “seminars,” or Socratic conversations, using the week’s reading as the subject matter. Students are expected to actively participate in the discussion for the duration of each class session.

The use of electronic devices (such as laptops or phones) is not allowed during this course, in order to improve concentration and the quality of conversation.

The course will be concluded with an examination. More specific instructions regarding the examination will be provided after enrollment.

## Enrollment

The application period is until January 4th, 2025. You will receive the outcome of your application on January 7th, 2025.

