**CL2358 Greek historiography**

**Vacation reading**

It would be a good idea to read the following works, in the way that you would read a novel. That is, do not try to make a note of every word and do not spend too much time on trying to understand for example the battle scenes... Instead, what I would like you to do is to relate to the stories told by the authors, in the same way that you normally approach a piece of literature. Try to make up your own mind on questions pertaining to the author's agenda (what is his purpose, his message and the lessons that he wants his audience to take away with them)?

Herodotos *Histories*

Thucydides *A history of the Peloponnesian War*

Xenophon *Hellenica* (aka *A History of My Times*)

Polybios *Histories*

If you cannot find the time to read all three, then start with Herodotos. But make sure, as far as possible, that you read at least one of these cover to cover.

There are many translations out there, and I have no strong views on which ones to use. However, please note that some of the translations on Perseus are very stilted and dated – in other words, not what you would call 'a good read'. So, considering that these are central texts not only for the historiography course but also for Greek history generally, it may be worth investing in your own copy. There are lots of second hand copies out there (try the sites http://www.abebooks.co.uk and/or http://www.vialibri.net), which are usually very affordable.

You should also, if possible, try to read some secondary literature on historigraphy over the summer. Two excellent introductions are

J. Marincola *Greek Historians* Oxford 2001 (Greece and Rome New Surveys in the Classics)

S. Hornblower (ed.) *Greek Historiography*, Oxford 1994

Moreover, you'll get a good impression of the field in J. Marincola (ed.) *A Companion to Greek and Roman Historiography*, Blackwell Publishing, which is available electronically through the Royal Holloway library.

A collection of articles which are highly relevant both to the historiography course **and** to the second year Greek history half units is

J. Marincola, L. Llewellyn-Jones, C. Maciver *Greek Notions of the Past in the Archaic and Classical Periods: History without Historians*, Edinburgh 2012. This book is available electronically through the RHUL library. The chapters that are particularly relevant to what you will be doing in the autumn are Chapters 1-11.