Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War: 
An Introduction to the Historian, Realist, Philosopher

Preliminary Syllabus

• Week 1 (January 25):
  A Work To Last.
  1. Assignment: Please read the first ‘book’ of Thucydides’ *Histories* along with CANFORA’S “Biographical Obfuscities and Problems of Composition” and, if you have time, ROOD’S “Objectivity and Authority: Thucydides’ Historical Method.”

• Week 2 (February 1):
  The First Man in a ‘Democratic’ ‘Empire.’

• Week 3 (February 8):
  Life Upended. The Athenian Plague and the Corcyrean Stasis.
  3. Assignment: Please read the third ‘book’ of Thucydides’ *Histories* along with THOMAS’ “Thucydides’ Intellectual Milieu and the Plague.”

• Week 4 (February 22):
  The Melian Dialogue and the Emergence of Political Realism.
  4. Assignment: Please read the fourth and (esp.) fifth ‘book’ of Thucydides’ *Histories* along with OBER’S “Thucydides and the Invention of Political Science.”

• Week 5 (February 29):
  The Sicilian Expedition and the Return of Few out of Many
  5. Assignment: Please read the sixth and seventh ‘book’ of Thucydides’ *Histories* along with Avery, “Themes in Thucydides’ Account of the Sicilian Expedition.”

• Week 6 (March 7):
  Long lives Thucydides. A few glimpses of his afterlife.
Required Text:

Recommended Texts: