

# Word Roots: Classics 30

August 3, 2010:  
Introduction



# Today's Goals

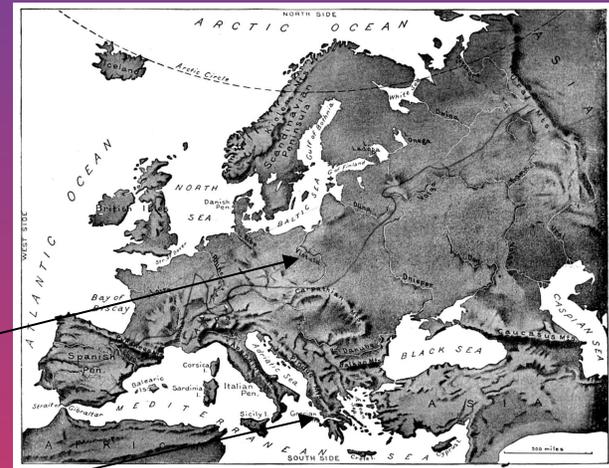
- Understanding how the course runs and grades are given
- A basic grasp of what the Greek and Latin languages are
- A basic grasp of English's origin and development
- A basic knowledge of how to write the Greek alphabet

# How the Course Runs and Grades are Assigned

- Instructor: John Rundin
- Text and Dictionaries
- Weekly Schedule (includes description of next week's quiz)
- Weekly Quizzes (one will be dropped)
- Websites
- Final
- Project

# The Greeks in Modern Times

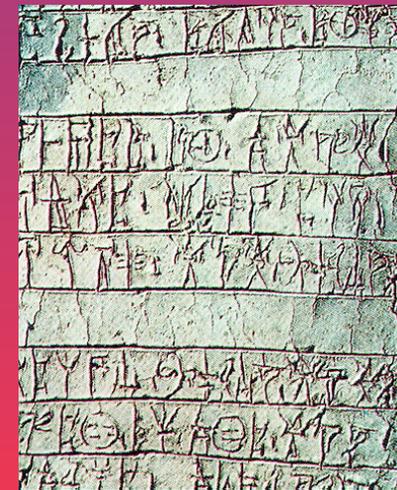
- The Greeks are people who speak Greek.
- In modern times, Greeks mostly live in Europe in the country of Greece, which was formed fairly recently in the 1800's and early 1900's.



# The Greeks in Ancient Times

## Part I

- People who we know spoke Greek were in the area of the Aegean Sea by the middle of the 2nd millennium B.C. (this means around 1500 B.C.)
- We know this because they left a form of writing (called Linear B) which scholars have proven to be Greek.

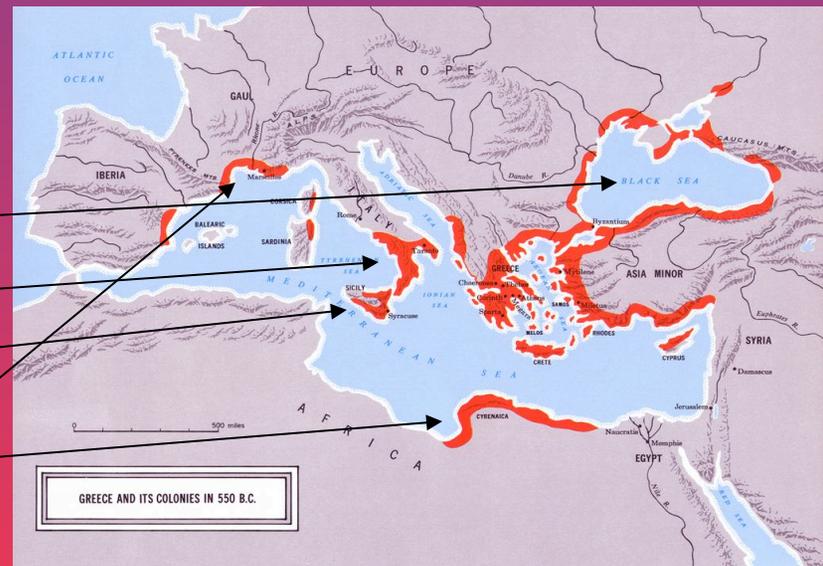


Linear B

# The Greeks in Ancient Times

## Part II

- Over the next 1000 years, Greeks spread across the Mediterranean Sea and into
  - the Black Sea
  - Southern Italy
  - Sicily
  - North Africa
  - Southern France



# The Greeks in Ancient Times

## Part III

- When Alexander the Great (who was not Greek but who admired Greek culture) conquered a huge chunk of the world, he brought Greek language and culture to the entire Eastern Mediterranean, where it became an important force.



Alexander's Conquests

# The Greeks in Ancient Times

## Part IV

- The Ancient Greeks excelled in art, philosophy, and science
- Therefore, although the Greeks no longer have the dominant position they held in ancient times, they have left a lasting mark on many aspects of later European, Middle Eastern and even South Asian culture.
- As a result, the Greek language has had a strong influence on English.

# The Romans

## Part I

- The Romans were originally central Italian people who got their name from their city, Rome.
- Our first clear records of them come from the middle part of the first millennium B.C. (around 500 B.C.).
- They spoke a language that we call Latin.
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# The Romans

## Part II

- They came into history later than the Greeks.
- They originally controlled only a small area of central Italy.
- However, by the time of Jesus Christ, they had a huge empire that controlled the entire Mediterranean.
- They spread their language, and, generally, Latin become the dominant language of the Western Mediterranean, while Greek remained the common language of the Eastern Mediterranean.



The Roman Empire

# The Romans

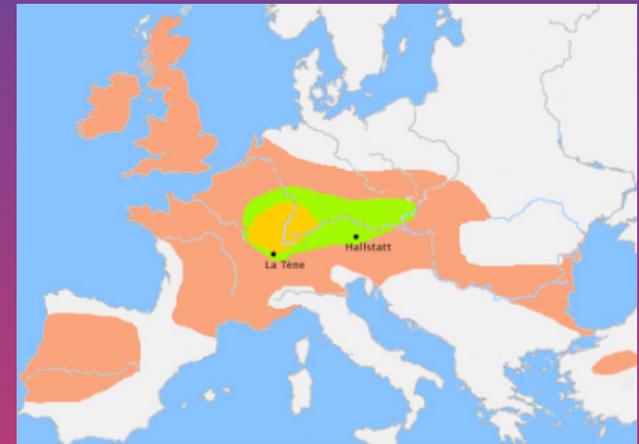
## Part III

- The Romans admired and imitated many aspects of Greek culture.
- The Roman Empire slowly fell apart; however, its Language, Latin, remained the dominant language of intellectual discourse in Western Europe.
- At the same time, among common people, Latin slowly changed to become the modern Romance languages such as Spanish, French, and Italian.
- Although English is NOT a Romance language, that is, it does not descend directly from Latin, because it is a Western European language, it has been much influenced by Latin both from Latin itself and from the Romance languages that grew from Latin.

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# Celts

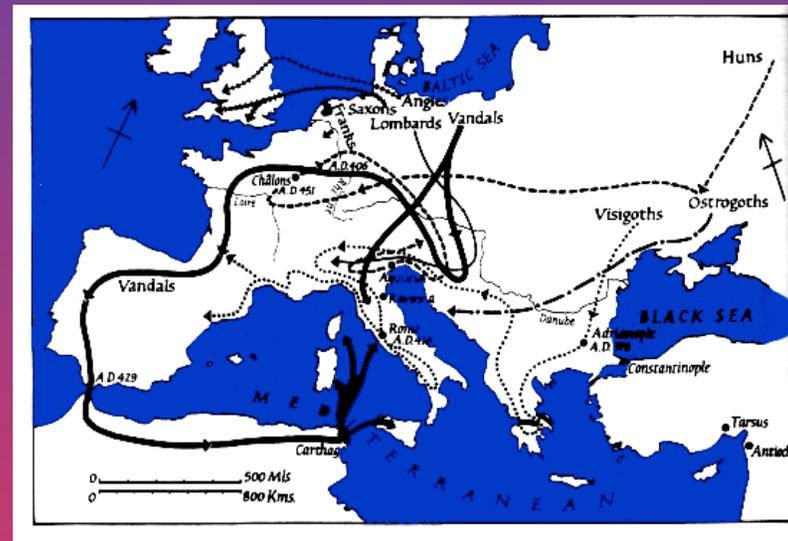
- In early Roman times, much of Western Europe, including modern England, was inhabited by Celts, whom the Romans tended to dominate and who often learned Latin.
- The language of the Celts turned into modern European languages like Gaelic, a language still spoken in Ireland, and Welsh, spoken in Wales.



Celtic Europe

# Germans

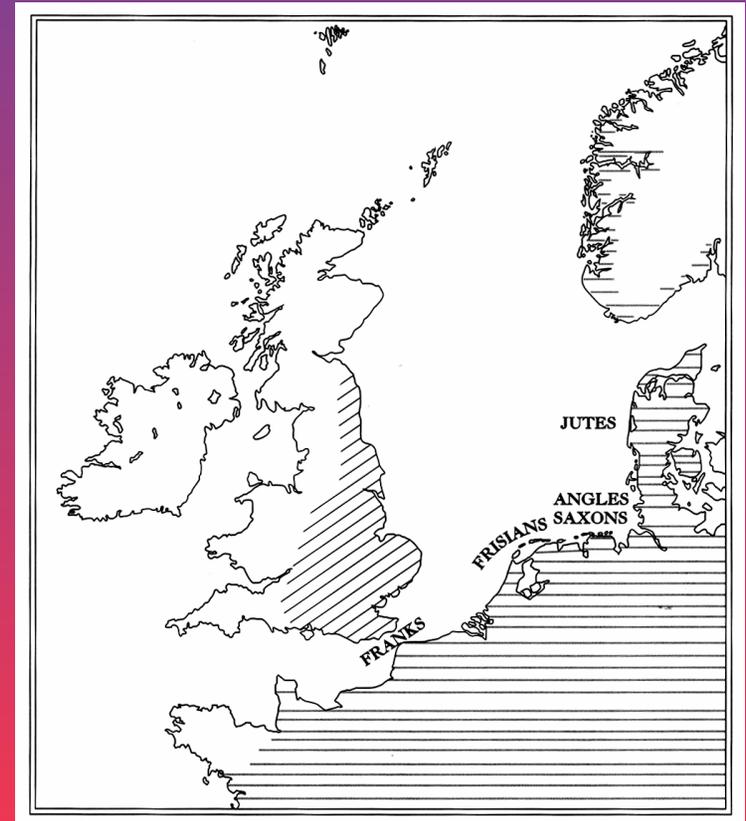
- In Northern Europe, however, the Romans encountered a number of peoples whom they called Germans, who spoke what we call Germanic Languages.
- As the Roman Empire slowly fell apart, Germans came to rule over much of the Western Mediterranean.
- Their German languages evolved into modern languages like German, Dutch, the Scandinavian languages and English. All are called Germanic languages.



German Expansion

# The Beginnings of English

- England was probably mostly Celtic speaking at first.
- But several German tribes invaded:
  - Angles
  - Saxons
  - Jutes
  - Frisians
  - Franks
- The Germanic language they spoke became English.



# The Development of English

- In its basic, everyday features, English is a Germanic language.
- However, it has been profoundly influenced by Latin.
  - Because Latin was the intellectual and spiritual language of Western Europe
  - Because the French-speaking Normans conquered and controlled England for several centuries.
- Greek, too, has influenced English through scientific and intellectual vocabulary.

# English Today

- Everyday, household words are German (“house,” “water,” “milk,” “bed”)
- In the workplace and more formal, public situations, we tend to use more Latin—either from French or directly from Latin (“invention,” “prescription,” “account,” “medicine,” “status,” “veto”)
- In very technical fields, we often use words of Greek origin (“psychology,” “pediatrician,” “topology” “mathematics”)

# The Greek Alphabet

## Part I

- The alphabet we use in English comes from the Romans, who used it to write Latin.
- The Romans got their alphabet from the Greeks; in fact, our alphabet really could be called an eccentric Greek alphabet.
- Because so many technical terms come from Greek, a knowledge of the Greek alphabet is very helpful if you want to understand technical English words.

# The Greek Alphabet

## Part II

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### Simplified alphabet and pronunciation

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<i>A</i> α	(alpha) pronounced 'cup' or 'calm'
<i>B</i> β	(beta) pronounced 'b' as in English
<i>Γ</i> γ	(gamma) a hard 'g', like 'got'
<i>Δ</i> δ	(delta) a clean 'd', like 'dot'
<i>E</i> ε	(epsilon) short 'e' like 'pet'
<i>Z</i> ζ	(zeta) like 'wisdom'
<i>H</i> η	(eta) pronounced as in 'hair' <span style="margin-left: 20px;">η θ</span>
Θ θ	(theta) – blow a hard 't' ('tare')
<i>I</i> ι	(iota) like 'bead' or like 'bin'
<i>K</i> κ	(kappa) a clean 'k' like 'skin' <span style="margin-left: 20px;">κ</span>
<i>Λ</i> λ	(lambda) like 'lock'
<i>M</i> μ	(mu) like 'mock'
<i>N</i> ν	(nu) like 'net'
<i>Ξ</i> ξ	(xi) like 'box'
<i>O</i> ο	(omicron) a short 'o', like 'pot'
<i>Π</i> π	(pi) a clean 'p', like 'spot'
<i>P</i> ρ	(rho) a rolled 'r', like 'rrat'
<i>Σ</i> σ ς	(sigma) a soft 's', like 'sing'
<i>T</i> τ	(tau) a clean 't', like 'ting'
<i>Υ</i> υ	(upsilon) French 'lune' or German 'Müller'
Φ φ	(phi) – blow a hard 'p', like 'pool'
<i>X</i> χ	(khi) – blow a hard 'c', like 'cool'
<i>Ψ</i> ψ	(psi) as in 'lapse'
<i>Ω</i> ω	(omega) like 'saw'

*Note 'clean' indicates no 'h' sound; 'blow hard' indicates plenty of 'h' aspiration (e.g. φ as in 'top-hole').*

# The Greek Alphabet

## Part III

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ  
μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ (ς) τ υ φ  
χ ψ ω