Classical Studies 97a

Debate II

**Thucydides’ Lost Micropolitan Dialogue**

The year is 415 BCE. Melos has been ravaged. The resumption of hostilities seems inevitable. Charlie and Tony, with the consent of the governed, reign as the tyrants of Micropolis, a relatively insignificant *polis* in a Thracian backwater. You have been sent as envoys to plead your case to the Micropolitan tyrants, hoping to convince them to side either with the Delian League, led by Athens, or with the Peloponnesian League, led by Sparta.

In preparing for the debate, familiarize yourself with the rhetorical tendencies of Athens and Sparta. What are repeated Athenian arguments for siding with the Delian League, and what does Sparta routinely claim to be doing in this war? Important places to look include the Corinthian Debate (Thuc. 1.67-86), Mytilene address (3.8-14), the Mytilene Debate (3.36-48), the Spartan envoys in the Athenian Assembly (4.17-21), and the Melian Dialogue (5.84-112). With your sub-group, either prepare the arguments that will persuade Micropolis to side with you, or anticipate and prepare to refute those that are likely to come from the other side. Every person will be expected to contribute.

**Structure of Debate**

Athens I: 10 mins

Sparta I: 10 mins

(Break: 5 mins)

Athens II: 10 mins

Sparta II: 10 mins

**Groups**

Sparta/Peloponnesian League

I: Zoe, Forrey, Jude

II: Veronica, Stephanie, Tyler, Harrison

Athens/Delian League

I: Shunella, Casey, Justin

II: Greg, Linxi, Vince, Katherine