Classical Greece Notes

Geography
- Greek mainland is mountainous making agriculture and travel difficult
- Greek culture grew up around water – fishing and piracy

Greek historical eras:
- Mycenaean Age:
  - Rise of the Polis, city-state political organization
  - City-states ruled by kings
  - Developed arête, the pursuit of excellence and perfection, in all areas of life.

- Dark Age
  - Innovation and writing stopped
  - Iliad and Odyssey were composed by Homer

- Hellenic Age
  - Rise of Athens and Sparta as the dominant poleis.
  - Persian Wars – Persia attacked on two different occasions
    - Greeks won both – Athens was sacked and burned
    - Athens created the Delian League to prevent future attacks
    - Athens became a power among Greek city-states
  - Greek Golden Age
    - Athens known for advancements in philosophy, art, architecture, science, etc.
    - Sparta known for its military prowess, fierceness and bravery
  - Peloponnesian War
    - Sparta opposed Athens rise to power – created Peloponnesian League
    - Sparta won – war lasted so long that both sides were weakened irreparably
    - Greece invaded by Macedonia’s King Philip and his son Alexander

- Hellenistic Age
  - Macedonians united Greece into single country
  - Philip assassinated and Alexander assumed control
  - Alexander invaded Persia to expand Greek culture
    - Alexander’s armies overran Persians in Turkey, Middle East, Egypt
    - Macedonians conquered all the way to the Indus River before stopping
  - Alexander mixed Greek and Persian culture creating a new Hellenistic culture
    - Alexander married Persian woman, made army officers do the same
    - Alexander set up royal court like the Persian royal court
    - New culture was limited to cities in Alexander’s empire
  - Alexander died young; empire split amongst his generals and Hellenism died out