# *Sunoikisis*: The Anatomy of a 20+ Year Project in Collaborative Education

CAAS Annual Meeting: Panel Presentation and Workshop Proposal, October 5-7, 2017

ABSTRACT

This panel will introduce and orient the diverse members of the CAAS community (grad students, undergraduates, teachers, independent scholars) to the *Sunoikisis* collaborative course creation experience. We have two goals: (1) to give audience members a set of practical tools and procedures they can use to create their own collaborative courses and (2) to invite audience members to collaborate with *Sunoikisis* members on future projects. Our argument throughout will be that the *Sunoikisis* course experience is both a more *symbiotic* and more *effective* mode of teaching the ancient world.

After a brief introduction on the history of *Sunoikisis*, the program for the panel will consist of three sections full of 3-5 minute presentations. These presentations will be delivered in person, live via Google Hangout, or in a prerecorded video. In the first section ("The Team of a Typical Sunoikisis Course"), we will discuss the roles that the following members play in course creation and administration: course director, course advisor, individual faculty (both those affiliated and unaffiliated with an institution), graduate TA's, the Sunoikisis post-bacc, and both matriculating and non-matriculating students. These presentations will consist of both descriptions of the roles and testimonials from actual participants. Special attention will be placed on the creation of paid teaching opportunities for unaffiliated faculty in the form of online cohorts for non-matriculating students. Tips will be given on how to overcome technical difficulties and coalesce different personalities in an online setting. The second section ("Technology for Collaboration and Content Creation") will serve as an orientation and a how-to guide for audience members to familiarize themselves with the open-source platforms that *Sunoikisis* uses for managing courses and curating new content: scalar, slack, WordPress, CommentPress, Google Hangouts, and YouTube. Audience members will receive some orientation on how to use these platforms themselves and also some procedural instruction on how to create and run a successful online "common session" with multiple student and faculty participants. The final section will feature a survey of upcoming *Sunoikisis* course communities and an invitation to audience members to participate in these communities: Sci-Fi and Classics, Science and Technology in the Ancient World, Ancient Leadership, and Black Classicism. Faculty from these different courses will speak to the impact that participating in *Sunoikisis* has had at their home institutions in terms of new modes of student engagement, the recognition they have received from their administration, and the ways in which their teaching has become more gratifying.

These presentations (text, images, video) will be composed beforehand on the scalar platform (scalar.usc.edu) for reference during the panel and afterward.

LINKS TO SUNOIKISIS PROJECTS

The Sunoikisis Website
http://wp.chs.harvard.edu/sunoikisis/

An Example of the Sunoikisis Greek Sequence
http://wp.chs.harvard.edu/sunoikisis/2013/12/20/apa/
A Collaborative Online Commentary to Xenophon's *Education of Cyrus*: www.cyropaedia.org

Sunoikisis courses in translation on specific ancient authors
Homer's *Iliad* (Spring 2014) http://sunoikisis-iliad.chs.harvard.edu/

- More on how the *Iliad* course worked at different institutions: http://www.academiccommons.org/2014/08/12/adapting-content-from-a-massive-open-online-course-to-a-liberal-arts-setting/

Homer's *Odyssey* (Spring 2015): http://sunoikisis-odyssey.chs.harvard.edu/
Euripides (Spring 2016): http://sunoikisis-euripides.org/
Herodotus' *Histories* (Spring 2017): https://sunoikisis-herodotus.org/

Sunoikisis Ancient Leadership (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
http://scalar.usc.edu/works/sunoikisis-ancient-leadership/index