

**CLCV / HIST 3010; Winter Term
The College of the Humanities**

CLCV / HIST 3010: LATER ROMAN EMPIRE

Mondays / Wednesdays 4:05 pm-5:25 pm

Dr. Timothy Pettipiece

Course Email: Timothy.Pettipiece@carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The later Roman Empire constitutes an important chronological and cultural bridge between the Classical World and the successor societies of medieval Europe and the Near East. This course will introduce students to the late imperial period (from approximately the late 3rd to early 9th centuries CE). Emphasis will be placed on key figures and events driving the central political, social, religious, and military developments of the era, as well as the late empire's interactions with Germanic, Iranian, and Islamic realms.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- students will acquire broad chronological and geographic frameworks for situating events from late imperial history
- students will learn to interpret translated primary sources in historical and cultural context
- students will work collaboratively to explore key themes through in-class role-play activities

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Hugh Elton, *The Roman Empire in Late Antiquity: A Political and Military History* (Cambridge, 2018) \$45

Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire* (Penguin) \$25

EVALUATION

Weekly Quizzes	10%
Knowledge Application Exercise (KAE)	20%
In-Person Midterm (map / multiple choice)	20%
In-Person Final Exam (map / multiple choice / short essay)	50%
[Optional Research Paper (*see below)]	25% (+ Final Exam 25%)

COURSE DELIVERY AND COMMUNICATION

The course will be delivered in-person and students will benefit from attending as many lectures as possible. It is not designed as a distance course or independent study. I am happy to discuss anything course related and can be reached via email (see above). I will do my best to respond within 24 hours during weekdays, 48 hours during weekends. I am also available for walk-in office hours (TBD) or by appointment.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Sept 9 Course Introduction

Sept 14 Background and Review

Sept 16 FROM ANARCHY TO MONARCHY Elton, Intro, Chapter 1

Sept 21 EARLY FOURTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 2

Sept 23 MID FOURTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 3

Sept 28 LATE FOURTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 4

Sept 30 EARLY FIFTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 5

Oct 5 MID FIFTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 6

Oct 7 LATE FIFTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 7

Oct 14 CIVIL AND MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

Oct 19 SASANIAN EMPIRE

Oct 21 **midterm exam (in class)**

Nov 2 Imperial Council (I) Ammianus Marcellinus

Nov 4 Imperial Council (II) Ammianus Marcellinus

Nov 9 Imperial Council (III) Ammianus Marcellinus

Nov 11 Imperial Council (IV) Ammianus Marcellinus

Nov 16 EARLY SIXTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 8

Nov 18 MID SIXTH CENTURY

Nov 23 LATE SIXTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 9-10

Nov 25 SEVENTH CENTURY Elton, Chapter 11, Conclusion

Nov 30 ARAB CONQUESTS

Dec 2 WESTERN CHRISTENDOM

Dec 7 "BYZANTIUM"

Dec 9 ISLAMIC EMPIRE

Dec 11 Conclusion

****Schedule of topic may change due to severe weather**

WEEKLY QUIZZES (10%)

A series of 10 short pop quizzes will be administered throughout the term to be completed at the beginning of class. These will be handed in at the end of class. Students who choose to leave class early after completing a quiz will not receive a grade for that quiz. There will be no opportunity to make up missed quizzes.

KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION EXERCISE (KAE) (5% attendance + 15% group activity = 20%)

The Imperial Council

This is a collaborative, in-class roleplay activity designed to engage with course material in a more dynamic and participatory fashion. Students will be divided into groups which will be assigned debate topics and preparation materials. Group members must meet outside of class to determine suitable roles for each member and to strategize how to present their side of the issue being considered. Enhancements such as props and costuming are not required but are encouraged.

Students who are not in the assigned group for that class session also have an important role to play as members of the broader assembly. This assembly must rigorously question and scrutinize the advocates on their positions and understanding of the issues and source material. As such, students must attend all four "Imperial Council" sessions to earn the full 5% attendance component. The remaining 20% will be based on a combination of peer evaluation and professor's assessment.

Primary source material will be drawn from Ammianus Marcellinus (see Required Textbooks).

Detailed instructions for each group can be found on Brightspace.

OPTIONAL RESEARCH PAPER (25%)

You may choose to do a research paper worth 25% of your final grade, meaning that the final exam would be worth only 25%. This option is only recommended for students who are serious about wanting to hone their research and writing skills, especially those who may be considering advanced graduate study. As such, it is up to you to be self-motivated and organized, as the assignment has a strict timeline. I am more than happy to work closely with students who take on this challenge in order to produce a quality paper, but the standard of evaluation will be extremely high.

Please note that by choosing this option you are committing yourself to completing the assignment in a traditional humanistic manner. This means not using generative AI for the research and writing process and submitting work that is 100% human produced. I strongly advise you not to pursue this option if you think you will have any difficulty meeting this essential requirement.

Moreover, in order to receive a grade for the assignment, each of the following five components must be completed. However, only those components submitted on time will receive the allotted marks. Due dates are non-negotiable except in the case of a serious medical issue. If at any point you determine that you will not be able to meet the full assignment requirements you may opt out of the paper and your final exam will default back to the full amount.

1) A course related topic approved by me (due Sept 30) 2%

I am open to a wide variety of possible topics, but you want to find one that is going to sustain your attention and keep you motivated. I recommend thinking about the sorts of topics and themes you are generally interested in during your academic studies and try to make a link with one of those. I am happy to help you select and refine a suitable topic.

2) Working bibliography of at least 10 academic sources (due Oct 21) 3%

While the number of primary sources will vary depending on the topic, your paper must be supported by at least 10 secondary sources in the form of academic books and articles. Please note that 10 is a minimum

amount. You should be aiming to incorporate more. Consult me if you have questions about the suitability of particular sources.

3) Annotated source material / research notes / process materials (due Nov 25) 5%

Writing a paper is a multi-staged process that involves not only the collection of source material, but the careful reading, annotation, and analysis of that source material prior to writing. You must submit a dossier of your research process in the form of photos or digital files of annotated documents, hand-written or typed notes, outlines and drafts etc.

4) Finished paper of at least 10 pages (due Dec 11) 10%

As with the number of sources, 10 pages is a minimum requirement, so you should be aiming to write more than 10. Papers that are fewer than 10 pages will not be graded. In terms of formatting, your paper must be presented in standard format: double-spaced, 12-point font, title page, bibliography. The title page and bibliography do not count towards the 10-page minimum, and referencing must conform to an established protocol such as Chicago Style.

5) In-person progress reports 5%

You must make an effort to meet with me repeatedly during office hours to discuss the progress of your project. I will point out that this will also help me remember you should you require a reference letter in the future.

NOTE ON MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM

The midterm will cover any material from lectures and readings up to that date, while the final exam will be cumulative, covering all course material from the entire term. Short essay questions / topics will not be given in advance.

GRADING POLILCY

Please note that the Grade Book on Brightspace is an unofficial record of marks accumulated throughout the term. The official final letter grade is calculated and submitted to Carleton Central at the end of the term. If you think there has been a calculation error, please do not hesitate to contact me to have it corrected. Grades with a decimal point of .5 or above will be rounded up.

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (Updated Aug 12,2026)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Online Learning Resources

[On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems

and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate.

More information on the process [here](#).

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#).

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own

educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).
[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In

specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend, you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the "Calculate amount to pay" button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

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