

CLCV 2906: Topics in Greek and Roman Studies  
**ROME IN THE EAST & ROME AND THE  
ARABS**

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Lectures: MW 1300-1430

Overview

This course examines the “East” under Roman control and influence – broadly, the area of the modern Middle East, but also including places as far afield as Ethiopia and India. It seeks to explain how the Romans encroached on and then conquered the ancient kingdoms of the region, and how the centre of gravity of the Empire slowly shifted to the East between the time of Augustus (27 BC-AD 14) and the reign of the emperor Heraclius (AD 610-41). The course pays special attention to the role of the Arabs in the history of the region, examining their activities, identity, and religion before the emergence of Islam. It also examines in some detail the Persian (Sasanian) Empire, and aims to provide an appreciation of the significant legacy of both Roman and Persian control of different parts of the region. Broadly, we will spend September-October on the narrative of Rome’s conquest of the east, and then November on the role of the Arabs.

Main problems, questions and themes

**Historians:** how did Roman historians see Roman expansion into the ancient lands of the East?

How did they judge it? How should we judge their view of the past?

**Identity:** how “Roman” did the East become? Conversely, how did the East affect Rome’s perception of its own identity, and that of its citizens?

**History:** what effect did Roman expansion have on the history of the East?

**Arabs and Arab identity:** to what extent was there an Arab identity before Islam? What part did the Romans play in this?

**Iran:** what role did the Persian Empire play in the history of the Roman East? What was its legacy?

### Course objectives:

1. To develop the tools of historical analysis, particularly balanced, critical thinking, as they concern the study of ancient history.
2. To apply these skills in class discussion, written analyses, and presentations.
3. To encourage the student to use his or her reading of the ancient evidence to develop and argue a particular point of view.

### Readings

There are three texts for this course – Ball’s *Rome and the East* and Edwell’s *Between Rome and Persia* will be most useful for the first half, and *Rome and the Arabs* for the second.

### Required (at the bookstore):

1. W. Ball. *Rome in the East. The Transformation of An Empire* (2000).
2. P. Edwell, *Between Rome and Persia. The Middle Euphrates and Palmyra under Roman Control* (2008).
3. G. Fisher. *Rome and the Arabs Before the Rise of Islam* (2013).

➔ Please note: Book #3 is available as an e-book for Kindle from Amazon.ca, or as a print book from Amazon.com (US).

➔ Please note: Book #1 is available via the Carleton Library website in an electronic version.

### Course Evaluation/Important Dates

Note on plagiarism. I draw your attention to the University’s regulations and guidelines on plagiarism, which can be found on the last page of this course outline.

October 7 <sup>th</sup>	takehome test	30%
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	short assignment	30%
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	take-home mid-term due	40%

### Evaluation

The development of research, writing and critical thinking and analytical skills constitutes a key component of this course. To develop these skills, and pending the assignment of TA support, all evaluation in this course is via written work. Marks will be given for clearly-written, concise answers which address the question in a balanced, analytical and thoughtful way, and, particularly in the case of term papers and take-homes, support your arguments in a convincing fashion. I expect correct spelling and use of grammar!

In September, we will discuss, in class, argumentative essay styles, analysis, and so on, prior to the first assignment. I encourage any of you who would like help in developing essay-writing skills to use the Student Academic Success Centre, and to discuss with myself and/or the Teaching Assistant.

The take-home test will be a short essay exam based on material covered in readings and in class. The take-home final will follow the same format. The short assignment will be a mini-research paper covering an aspect of Roman history, and will be discussed in more detail in September. Please note that all work is to be submitted to CULearn by 11.59 EST on the due date. Please do not hand in hard copies. **Note the policies about plagiarism and late papers, below.**

The final exam is due at the end of the December exam period, December 22. This is an essay exam, **and the questions will be uploaded to CULearn on the final day of teaching as per University policy.** You may use any sources you wish (i.e., this is an open-book exam) but I do not expect you to go beyond your assigned readings and class notes. Please note: all written work provided as part of the take-home exam must be the work of the individual writing the exam. Group work is not acceptable. Citations should be used where appropriate, following the formats you have used for your term papers; if you are referencing from class notes, it is acceptable to cite as “class notes, date.”

Participation. There is no grade for participation, but I expect you all to become involved in class discussions, size of the class permitting. Also, if anything is unclear, or you have a question, don't hesitate to ask.

Please make sure you keep up with the readings and attend class regularly. Both are vital for success in this course.

Office hours. My office hours for this term are by appointment. Please e-mail me or talk to me after class to arrange a suitable time.

Class time. I would ask all of you to give your full attention in class. If you have to make a phone call, send a text, etc., please leave the class and return when you are finished. This is to avoid distracting your teacher and the students around you.

*Note: 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.*

### Provisional topics, by month

#### September

Introduction – what is the East? History and theory.

Roman imperialism and history – quick overview.

The East before Rome – historical background.

The first years of Roman rule – Pompey's Syria, Syria and the Roman Revolution

## Octavian's Syria

### October

Defending Syria in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD

Rome and its clients to AD 106 – Judaea and Nabataea

The Jewish Revolt

Nabataea, Petra, and Madain Salih – Nabataea's legacy

Rome and Persia at war, 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> c. AD – the changing face of Syria

Archaeological sites in Syria – Resafa, Palmyra, Dura Europos, and Zenobia

Rome and Persia in the violent 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD

### November

Hellenism, religion, and culture

Christianity in the Roman Near East

Rome and the Arabs

What is an Arab?

Arabs and Christianity

Arabs and politics

Arabs and culture

### December

The Muslim Conquests – legacy of Rome, Persia, and the Arabs

### Other Notes

1. Please see the final page, “Regulations common to all Humanities courses”, for information on plagiarism, requests for academic accommodation, etc.
  2. If you cannot complete an assignment due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, it is your responsibility to inform me so that alternative arrangements can be made. Documentary evidence of your reason for missing an assignment must be provided.
  3. It is your responsibility to come to class prepared. This includes doing the readings.
  4. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. There are NO exceptions, unless you have a compelling reason why you cannot submit your paper on time (illness, emergency etc.), in which case it is YOUR responsibility to inform me so alternative arrangements can be made.
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## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### 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.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library