

CLCV3202A/HIST3101A

ROME IN THE EAST & ROME AND THE ARABS

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Lectures: F 1135-1425, SA 502

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 and the reign of the emperor Heraclius. 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 Iranian (Sasanian) Empire, and aims to provide an appreciation of the significant legacy of both Roman and Iranian control of different parts of the region. Broadly, we will spend January-March on the narrative of Rome’s conquest of the east, and then March 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 Iranian Empire (the Sasanians) 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

Required (at the bookstore):

1. W. Ball. *Rome in the East. The Transformation of An Empire* (London, 2000).
2. G. Fisher. *Between Empires. Arabs, Romans, and Sasanians in Late Antiquity* (Oxford, 2011).

The University owns two copies of the second book, available on reserve. While it does not own a copy of the first book, it is available via a hyperlink from the Carleton Library website (when accessed from a computer on the campus network).

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.

February 10 th , Friday:	in-class test	25%
Throughout the term:	class presentations	15%
March 23 rd , Friday:	term paper due	30%
April 24 th , Tuesday:	take-home mid-term due <u>electronically</u> (questions handed out on March 30 th , last day of class).	30%

All evaluation in this course, except for the presentation, 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! Poorly-written answers will lose marks.

The in-class test is designed to test your comprehension of the material covered in class and in your readings. It will consist of short answer questions. Please note that University regulations concerning cheating apply to these tests. If in any doubt or if you have any questions about this, come and see me.

Class presentations are group work and will be done in groups of 3-4 (depending on class enrollment). I will provide a list of dates and topics and assign each of you to a group within the first few weeks of term. Presentations must be no longer than 20 minutes: I will cut you off if you keep going! Evaluation for presentations will be based on your research, as evidenced by the content of your presentation, your participation, as evidenced by your being there to present, and your enthusiasm and clarity of delivery. It is usually extremely obvious if one person has not contributed to a group, and you will be penalized if you are that person! Please make sure you pull your weight. Collegiality and cooperation is an important part of university life as well as real life!

The development of research, writing and critical thinking and analytical skills constitutes a key component of this course. To develop these skills, there is a term paper in this course – a research essay, approximately 10-12 pages long, excluding notes and bibliography. The paper can be on any topic you wish, related to this course. I encourage students to get in touch with me concerning their choice of topic. Styles of referencing, research skills, methodologies etc. will be discussed in class.

The final exam is due as per the date above. This is an essay exam and the questions will be given out 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 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.

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. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

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/

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.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: 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 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library