

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Fall Term 2011

COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES  
GREEK & ROMAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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CLCV4800A

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## THE THIRD CENTURY CRISIS

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Professor: Greg Fisher

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Office Hours: Friday 10-11

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Seminar: T Th 1005-1125 --- 0.5 credits

### Overview

This seminar will examine the circumstances of one of the most desperate times for the Roman Empire – the so-called “Third Century Crisis”, when the Empire was beset on all sides, riven by war and famine, and cursed by poor and ineffectual leaders. While focusing on the crisis, the course will cover the period down to AD395, to see how its consequences played out.

The primary objective of the course is to further develop critical thinking, analysis, and research skills, and to allow students to apply these skills in a series of essays. In particular, it seeks to develop skills crucial for success at graduate or professional school: effective essay writing; analysis; and oral presentation of material.

### Readings

Required (at the bookstore, or purchase yourself via Amazon or other retailer)

D.S. Potter, *The Roman Empire at Bay* (2004).

## Course Evaluation/Important Dates

This course depends on your consistent attendance. You must do all the readings and arrive for class prepared and ready to discuss the course material. If you do not do this, the course will suffer as a result. **Please note the weighting assigned to the participation grade.**

The first part of the course will consist of lectures on the background material. There will be an essay-based midterm based on this work.

The second part of the course will follow individual student responses to sections of the course text and/or assigned journal articles, where each student will be required to summarise the main arguments of an article, and then set it within the context of what we have covered in the first part of the term. A second student will act as discussion leader, and then the class will then offer a discussion of the relevant material. These discussion will allow us to examine, in-depth, the different characteristics of this period.

Midterm	25%	October 6
Journal article presentation	15%	Date to be determined in class for each student
Discussion leader	5%	
Research Essay	30%	December 21
<b>Participation</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>Throughout</b>

### Research Essay

Later in the term each student will complete a substantial research essay of 15 pp, based on material connected to the course. Students are encouraged to discuss their interests with me.

Drafts of long essays will be circulated amongst the group in November for feedback and discussion in class. This is to encourage a collegial approach to your work (a major part of academic life!) so as to facilitate dialogue between your different projects. Useful feedback will result in better papers! An exact schedule for each student will be determined.

Two classes will be held as “study classes” where there will be no formal meeting, but I will be available to assist you with your papers. Provisionally, these classes will be held on November 8 and 10, with class discussion of papers being held 15<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Provisional timeline: essay response and discussion dates may change depending on class enrollment, etc.

September: the background to the crisis; the essential characteristics of the crisis; timeline and narrative; consequences

October: coverage of specific areas of the crisis based on journal articles

November: focus is on essays, with the second half of the month based on essay-critique.

December: course ends, essays due

*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/](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.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/](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