

CLCV-HIST 2905A

THE ROMAN EMPIRE: FROM AUGUSTUS TO THE COMING OF ISLAM

Professor: Greg Fisher

Office: PA 2A54

Office hours: TTh 10.00-11.00

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Lectures: TTh 0835-0955 Southam KM-TH

TA: Andrew Sopko

Overview

This course will continue from CLCVHIST 2904 (Roman Republic), beginning with Rome's first emperor, Augustus, and terminating with the coming of Islam, and the transformation of Rome's Mediterranean Empire into a Balkan Empire – the Byzantine State. We will examine key social, political, and cultural events, including the emergence of Christianity, the economic collapse, and civil wars of the 3rd century, the wars with Parthian and Sasanian Persia, and the lives of the many colourful characters which populate the ancient historical landscape.

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

1. B. Campbell. *The Romans and their World* (Yale). Note: this book was assigned for CLCV HIST 2904 and will be useful for the first part of this course.
2. A. Cameron. *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity*. 2nd edn. (Routledge). Note: this book will be useful for the second part of the course.

3. G. Fisher. *Rome and the Arabs Before the Rise of Islam* (Amazon/CreateSpace). Note: this is not at the bookstore, but is available online from amazon.com as an e-book or a print copy. It will be useful for the final part of the course.

Course Calendar

Here is a list of the topics we will be covering, by month.

- January The Empire: Augustus to the so-called “Five Good Emperors” (down to 180AD, death of Marcus Aurelius). This section will look at the Early Empire, and will include the reigns of well-known emperors such as Nero, Tiberius, Vespasian, Hadrian, Trajan, and Marcus Aurelius.
- February Problems with the Empire; the Empire splits between East and West. The Severans, the Tetrarchs, and Constantine (d. 337AD). This will deal with financial and military problems in the Empire, enemies within and without, and the new and very dangerous problem posed by the emergence of Sasanian Iran, the most potent enemy of the Romans since Carthage. We will also look at the social changes brought by Christianity. In this section, we will begin to use *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity* by Averil Cameron.
- March &
April The Late Empire, and Late Antiquity: What did it mean to be Roman after 350? What happened to the Western Empire? Who were the “barbarians”? Could the Eastern Empire, centered around Constantinople, using Greek as its official language, really be “Roman”? In this section we will ponder these questions and others, reading the work of Ammianus Marcellinus, who covers the critical events of Adrianople in 378, sometimes seen as a definitive step towards the “end” of the Roman Empire in the west. We will briefly survey the events of the fifth century AD before finishing the year with two important sections: the events surrounding the reign of the Emperor Justinian (d. 565) and the Empress Theodora, and the emergence of the Arabs as a powerful political force as allies of Rome and Persia – and finally, as enemies of both in the early seventh century AD, dealing a mortal blow to Sasanian Persia and severely weakening the Roman Empire in the East.

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. Note that I have a policy of submitting **all** work suspected of plagiarism to the Associate Dean of FASS, **without exception**. I also have a **zero tolerance policy for late assignments** without a medical note. **All late assignments without adequate explanation will receive an automatic zero.**

February 11, Tuesday:	take-home midterm 1 due	30%
March 20, Thursday:	take-home midterm 2 due:	30%
April 26, Saturday:	take-home final due	40%

Note that due to a commitment for the federal government, there will be no class on Tuesday, March 4.

Note that the university sets the deadline for the submission of takehomes. The takehome will be available after the final day of class.

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! Poorly-written answers will lose marks.

Unless otherwise specified, all exams will be submitted electronically through CuLearn by 11.59 EST on the set day.

1. The three **take-home assignments** will involve short essays questions on material covered in readings and in class. No further research is expected of you for this assignment. Questions will be provided **one week** before the due date.
2. **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.”**

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 at the top of this page. Please e-mail me or talk to me after class to arrange a suitable time if they are not convenient.

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.

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/

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/

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