

HI 307: The Roman World



Spring Semester 2010

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Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15.
5208 Social Sciences

Course Description

The emphasis in this lecture course will be on the social, economic and cultural history of Rome. Evidence from the second and first century BC will be included for discussion, but the main focus will be on the more abundant material from the first and second century AD, the period known as the Principate. The first part of the course – week 2 to 5 – will focus on the Roman Empire, and will analyze how it was ruled and how it worked. The second part – week 6 to 12 – will focus on the people inhabiting the Roman Empire, their religious attitudes and their social behavior and codes of conduct. From week 12 to week 14 the focus will be on the Roman economy. Weekly reading requirements are compulsory and must be completed before the Tuesday Class. For the discussion sections additional readings will be required, consisting either of primary sources in translation or the opinions and arguments of modern scholars.

Primary sources (in translation; texts from this book will be studied in the discussion sections):

Jo-Ann Shelton, *As The Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History*, New York: Oxford University Press 1998 (pb.). ISBN 019508974x.

Textbook:

Peter Garnsey/Richard Saller, *The Roman Empire: Economy, Society and Culture*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press 1987 (pb.). ISBN 0520060679.

Attendance, Exams and Grades

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. The material for the midterm exam is the material covered in lecture and discussion sections between week 1 and week 10 (in other words: from the introductory lecture to Social Hierarchy and Social Mobility taught in week 10). The midterm exam is taken in class. It will count for 30% towards your final grade. The final exam will count for 40% and will cover all the material from week 11 to week 15. The assignment discussed below will count for 20% towards your final grade and the remaining 10% is based on regular attendance, class discussion and general participation.

Assignment

There will be no lectures on Tuesday 9 March and Thursday 11 March (but you still need to come to the discussion sections; there will be no Honors Discussion Section during this week). During this week you will work on an essay of five pages (1.5 spacing) on a topic related to the history of the Roman family.

The question that you need to answer in your essay is the following:

“The literary and epigraphic evidence from Rome, limited though it is, certainly gives no support to the traditional belief that the Roman household usually included several nuclear families dominated by an authoritarian, elderly patriarch.”

Garnsey/Saller, *The Roman Empire: Economy, Society and Culture*, p. 129.

How have ancient historians attempted to prove that the average Roman family consisted of a father, mother, and children? Why do you think it is relevant to determine whether the Roman family was a nuclear family or an extended family?

You will receive a separate syllabus for the discussion sections. Students taking this class for Honors credit will receive a separate syllabus outlining the requirements for their program.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Essay Submission Date: 3/12.

Midterm Exam: 4/8.

Final exam: 5/11 at 10:05 AM; room to be announced.



Week 1: Rome: City and Empire.
1/19 and 1/21

Week 2: The Roman Emperor.
1/26 and 1/28

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 5-19.

Week 3: Government without Bureaucracy.
2/2 and 2/4

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 20-40.

Week 4: The Roman Army.
2/9 and 2/11

No specific readings required.

Week 5: The Culture of Becoming Roman.
2/16 and 2/18

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 178-196.

Week 6: Religion and Worship in the Roman World.
2/23 and 2/25

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 163-178.

Week 7: Between Tolerance and Persecution.
3/2 and 3/4

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 163-78.

Week 8: No Lectures.
3/9 and 3/11.
Work on essay.
Submission date: 3/12.

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 126-147.

Week 9: Slaves and Freedmen.
3/16 and 3/18

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 107-25.

Week 10: Social Hierarchy and Social Mobility.
3/23 and 3/25

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 107-125.

Week 11: Patronage and Friendship.
4/6

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 148-159.

Midterm Exam.

4/8

Week 12: An Underdeveloped Economy
4/13 and 4/15

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 43-64.

Week 13: The Ownership of Land and the Mentality of the Upper Classes.
4/20 and 4/22

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 64-82.

Week 14: Supplying the Roman Empire.
4/27 and 4/29

Readings: Garnsey/Saller pp. 83-103.

Week 15: Conclusion.
5/4 and 5/6

