

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1976-77

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
308	The Roman Empire	Clover

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consider the history of the Mediterranean Basin during the period when the Mediterranean was a Roman lake -- that is, from about the second century B.C. until around the seventh century A.D. Some attention will be given to the period of "afterlife" between the seventh and ninth centuries A.D. The course will focus on the diverse societies and cultures throughout the Mediterranean, and on the extent to which the Roman authorities managed to control them. Inevitably it will be necessary to confront the question of whether the Roman Empire fell, or whether something else happened to it. The opinion of Gibbon will receive careful attention at the end of the course

LECTURES

Three lectures a week, and one hour of small-group discussion.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

All students will write a six weeks examination, and a final examination. During the twelfth week of the term they will write a twelve weeks examination OR had in a twelve weeks paper (length: about 10 pages) on a subject mutually agreeable to the student and the instructor. Students taking the course for honors credit will work out an individual assignment with the instructor after the sixth week of the term.

GRADING SYSTEM

Six weeks examination -- 30%
Twelve weeks examination or paper -- 30%
Final examination -- 40%

REQUIRED READINGS

Lynn White, The Transformation of the Roman World: Gibbon's Problem after Two Centuries
Ernst Badian, Roman Imperialism in the Late Republic
Harold Mattingly, Roman Imperial Civilization
Peter Brown, The World of Late Antiquity, A.D. 150-750
Henry Chadwick, The Early Church
Apuleius, The Golden Ass (tr. J. Lindsay)
Augustine, The Confessions (tr. R.S. Pine-Coffin)

Optional Reading: D.A. Saunders (ed.) The Portable Gibbon: The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire