

## UW-MADISON

### HIST801: GRADUATE SEMINAR ANCIENT HISTORY SPRING 2022

#### MANUMISSION IN THE ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN WORLD

Marc Kleijwegt (marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu)  
5121 Mosse Humanities Building  
Office hours: Friday 10am-12noon

Claire Taylor (claire.taylor@wisc.edu)  
5122 Mosse Humanities Building  
Office hours: Monday & Friday 10.45-11.45am

**Meetings:** Friday 1.20-3.15pm, Greek and Roman Reading Room, Memorial Library; in person

#### **Outline**

Hundreds of thousands of enslaved people were freed in Antiquity, complicating ideological dichotomies separating slave and free. Who were these people and how can we investigate their histories? What relationships did they have with their former owners? Can we assess the extent to which their lives changed on manumission? How did manumission practices shape slavery and the slave trade? This course focuses on these questions by examining the processes, rituals, economic and social histories of manumission in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. Using case studies from both Greek and Roman history, we will cover topics such as the motivations for manumission and the practicalities of it, the legal and religious context(s) which shaped manumission practices, the role of the formerly enslaved within the family and the community, and the evidence that manumission did (and did not) leave behind.

Throughout the seminar, discussions will be drawn from evidence from both the Greek and Roman worlds. This will provide students with the opportunity to develop expertise in, and/or familiarity with, methods, theories, evidence, and bibliography from across the ancient Mediterranean world.

#### **Credit hours**

Students may take this course for 1-3 credits. The credit standard for the course is met by an expectation of at least 45 hours of student engagement with the course's learning activities for each credit (1 credit = at least 45 hours; 2 credits = at least 90 hours; 3 credits = at least 135 hours). For all students, these activities will include group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week. Other course activities and assignments (dedicated online time, reading, writing, field trips, individual consultations with the instructor, etc.) will vary depending on the number of credits for which a student is enrolled. These differing levels of activities and expectations are described in the syllabus.

## **Assignments**

### **1. Source analysis (25%)**

One short (2 page) source analysis.

Due: Friday 11 March (Week 7)

### **2. Scholarship analysis (25%)**

One short (2 page) exercise to demonstrate your understanding of (an aspect of) the scholarly literature and methodologies of studying manumission.

Due: Friday 8 April (Week 11)

### **3. Research paper (50%)**

An in-depth analysis of a question of your choice (in consultation): 15-20 pages

Due: Friday 6 April (Week 15)

## **Schedule**

Specific readings will be given weekly; the following books can be used for orientation:

Mouritsen, Henrik 2011. *The Freedman in the Roman World*, Cambridge and New York.

Zelnick-Abramowitz, Rachel 2005. *Not Wholly Free. The Concept of Manumission and the Status of Manumitted Slaves in the Ancient Greek World*. Leiden.

### **Week 1 (January 28): Introduction**

Introduction to the course

### **Week 2 (February 4): Assimilation or separation?**

Manumission and slavery at Athens: The *phialai exeleutherikai* inscriptions

### **Week 3 (February 11): Assimilation or separation?**

Liberti as decuriones and as benefactors

### **Week 4 (February 18): Family life and manumission**

Families in the Delphi manumission inscriptions

### **Week 5 (February 25): Family life and manumission**

Family life after manumission in the Roman world

### **Week 6 (March 4): Family life and manumission**

Guest speaker: Dr. Andrew Lepke (WWU-Münster): The Bouthrotos manumission inscriptions

### **Week 7 (March 11): Family life and manumission**

Family life after manumission in the Roman world

### **Week 8 (March 18): Spring break**

### **Week 9 (March 25): Manumission and religion**

Consecration and sanctuary labor in the Greek world

**Week 10 (April 1): Manumission and religion**

The act of manumission and the role of religion in Rome

**Week 11 (April 8): Adults and children**

Laws and practices in Rome and Kalymnos

**Week 12 (April 15): Discussion: Manumission as an ancient phenomenon**

Guest speaker: Dr. Andrew Lepke (WWU-Münster).

**Week 13-15 (April 22, 29, May 6)**

Individual meetings