MANUMISSION IN THE ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN WORLD

Marc Kleijwegt (marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu)  Claire Taylor (claire.taylor@wisc.edu)
5121 Mosse Humanities Building  5122 Mosse Humanities Building
Office hours: Friday 10am-12noon  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:


Week 1 (January 28): Introduction
Introduction to the course

Week 2 (February 4): Assimilation or separation?
Manumission and slavery at Athens: The phialai exehteis 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