

HIST 3500 Ancient Med

Isa Blumi

Syllabus for HIST 3500/The Ancient Mediterranean

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00 – 11:40 am

Peachtree Street 2131, Georgia State University Campus

January 5 to May 4, Spring 2009

Instructor: Isa Blumi

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Office 2148

Hours: Mondays, 3:00-5:00 and Wednesdays at 2:00-3:00. Come any time during these hours...

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Course Description:

This course examines the social dimensions of the Ancient Mediterranean world and its relations to the larger world from the emergence of the later periods of Egypt to the rise of Christianity. This will involve a study of the nature of political and legal life in various civilizations and their states, the relationship between the religious and political establishments that mark much of the history of the Ancient Mediterranean, and how this shared history impacted, in particular, women and the many peoples of the region. Although detailed regional studies will not be made, there will be references to specific examples presented throughout the course that cover a wide range of geographical locations. From the Semitic-speaking Middle East, to Europe, North Africa and even South Asia, this course invites the student to abandon common stereotypes about the communities that make up the ancient world and appreciate the variety of social practices that shape these global engines of change.

In addition to presenting a survey of the institutions found in the Mediterranean, this course seeks to provide the student a solid historical foundation to the understanding of the complexities of religious and political practices and its role in shaping modern world history. Studies written by specialists in comparative religion, gender studies, political science, sociology, art, architecture and anthropology will help provide a broad, interdisciplinary perspective to the social history of the Ancient Mediterranean. The materials introduced in this course have been selected to help us rethink the history of the civilizations and to question the assumptions many hold about their contributions to future societies. It will also seek to introduce alternative ways of understanding the many conflicts associated with emerging monotheistic faiths by highlighting the social and economic processes of conflict. In addition to addressing this important subject with material rarely used in the teaching of such a course, this class also hopes to draw to the student's attention the issues surrounding the writing and reading of the history of the larger world. In other words, I

hope we can explore through our analysis of these writings what role the student, reader and historian have in the constitution of conflict and social trauma and their ultimate resolution.

Course requirements:

- Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions (up to 10% of final grade);
- Completion of all assigned readings as scheduled;
- A thought paper [500 words] on the transition from Egypt to Hellas. What do you think about the continuity and transition of religious practices or other cultural form one can find in styles of dress, art, theatre or architecture. Use Alessia Fassone and Enrico Ferraris, *Egypt* (University of California Press, 2008) as reference. This response is due by April 2, NO EXCEPTIONS!!! (15% of final grade);
- A mid-term take home exam (35% of final grade)
 - Exam is either a discussion on the connection between sub-Saharan Africa and the Ancient Mediterranean world (5-8 pages, double-spaced) OR
 - a discussion about Roman colonialism in *Hispaniae* OR
 - ELECT to DO a 20 page double-spaced FINAL paper on the dynamics of TRANSITION within the ROMAN EMPIRE per Ronald Syme's study, You are expected to fully cite sources with relevant page numbers. (75% of final grade);
- A final paper (40% of final grade). The final entails a research paper that must be between 8 and 10 pages, double-spaced that explores the role of the Roman Empire as a conduit for early Christianity. You must use Freeman and Pagels' books. You are expected to fully cite sources with relevant page numbers.

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D as B/C grades and F is below 60.

THERE ARE NO FINAL EXAMS IN THIS CLASS, SO DO NOT ASK! YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN ANY FLEXIBILITY WITH PAPERS AS YOU KNOW ON THE FIRST DAY WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU. START WORKING ON YOUR PAPERS EARLY!!!

Course Materials: As these are essential texts for anyone studying the region, it would behove the student to own copies of the texts used in this course, almost all of which are still in print and available through a local bookseller or online provider. That being said, some of the material will be made available on reserve at the library. All materials taken from journals (reviews and articles) may be downloaded from JSTOR, which is accessible from the library webpage.

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary as the world changes on us every day.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is defined as using someone else's work as your own, whether actual writing or ideas. The classic example is handing in a paper which the student has not written but pretends is his/her own work, increasingly common with the internet. But plagiarism can also be inserting paragraphs in a paper written by someone else without acknowledgment, i.e. a footnote, or having someone else rewrite a paper you wrote in draft form.

Plagiarism is cheating and is governed by the Code of Academic Integrity. I will fail any student found to have cheated for the semester, not simply for the paper itself. Students can appeal such charges, but in cases where the appeal is granted, that student must write another paper under university supervision to prove s/he is capable of writing such a paper. **Anyone unsure of exactly what plagiarism is should consult Rush Limbaugh.

Course rules:

1. Taking exams. All students must take exams at scheduled times. The only acceptable excuse is a verifiable medical excuse. Illness of relatives requires a medical statement from that relative's doctor. **There will be no early final exams to allow for travel plans.
2. Cell phones/pagers. **ALL cell phones must be turned off when you enter the classroom. Any ringing of a phone once class has begun will lead to the student leaving the class for that period. There will be a grace period of one week. Consistent infractions by a person will result in your removal from class for disruptive behavior.
3. Leaving class and returning. Some students now think they are attending the movies when in class - whether a film is being shown or not! Do not get up and leave class once you are in it unless there is an emergency.
4. Attendance: Students who miss more than five (5) scheduled classes can expect significant grade reduction. As participation in class accounts for 10% of final grade, any student missing more than 5 classes will automatically have 10% taken from their final grade.

Required Books for Purchase:

- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004).
- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason* (Vintage, 2005)
- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times* (Yale University Press, 2000).
- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire, AD 284-641: The Transformation of the Ancient World* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006).
- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa* (Routledge; 3 edition, 1993)

Selections for Mid-Term and Final Papers:

- Alessia Fassone and Enrico Ferraris, *Egypt* (University of California Press, 2008) USE AS A SIMPLE RESOURCE OR POINT OF REFERENCE FOR COURSE.
- Frank M. Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity: Ethiopians in the Greco-Roman Experience* (Belknap Press, 1971).
- Elaine Pagels, *The Gnostic Gospels*. (Vintage Press, 1989).
- J.S. Richardson, *Hispaniae: Spain and the Development of Roman Imperialism, 218-82 BC*. (Cambridge University Press, 2004).
- Ronald Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Course Work

Week One: (January 6 and 8)

Introduction

January 8

- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 1-13

Week Two: (January 13 and 15)

January 13

Description of Egyptian State and Society and History of Kingdoms Up until Mentuhotep II

- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 13-34.

Supplimentary Reading:

- Alessia Fassone and Enrico Ferraris, *Egypt*, 6-26, 94-119

January 15

Ancient Egypt Social Life: How did that affect their political and cultural order?

- Alessia Fassone and Enrico Ferraris, *Egypt*, 184-233.

Week Three: (January 20 and 22)

Jan 20

Egypt's Neighbors

- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 34-53

Jan 22

- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times* (Yale University Press, 2000) 1-35

Week Four: (January 27 and 29)

Jan.27

- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times* (Yale University Press, 2000) 36-69.
- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 54-74.

Jan. 29

- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*, 70-93.

Week Five: (February 3 and 5)

Feb. 3 Persian Wars

- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 74-76.
- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*, 94-123.

Feb. 5

- Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*, 174-221.

Week Six: (February 10 and 12)

S'ka Class

Study for paper on Transition

- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 7-60.

Week Seven: (February 17 and 19)

Feb. 17 The Rise of Carthage from Colonialism and the Origins of Rome

- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa*, xix-32
- Robin W. Winks and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 118-123.

Feb. 19

- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa*, 33-48.

Week Eight: (February 24 and 26)

Feb. 24

- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa*, 49-100.

Feb. 26

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- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 61-78.

Supplement:

- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa*, 100-131.

(March 3 and 5)

MIDTERM SPRING BREAK

Week Nine: (March 10 and 12)

Classes Resume: HAND IN MID-TERM PAPERS

March 12

- Susan Raven, *Rome in Africa*, 132-166
- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 79-153.

Week Ten: (March 17 and 19)

Constantine

March 17

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 47-55.
- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 154-201.

March 19

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 55-70.

Week Eleven: (March 24 and 26)

March 24

- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 202-232.
- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 70-100.

March 26

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 102-115.
- Charles Freeman, *The Closing of the Western Mind: The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason*.(Vintage, 2005), 251-270.

Week Twelve: (March 31 and April 2)

March 31

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 115-140.

April 2 (Turn in Thought Paper)

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 140-154.

Week Thirteen: (April 7 and 9)

Anatomy of Roman State: Origins of the Modern

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April 7

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 155-190.

April 9--Barbarians

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 191-221.

Week Fourteen: (April 14 and 16)

April 14

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 301-345.

April 16

- Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 345-370.

Weeks Fifteen: (April 21 and 23) and LAST WEEK (April 28 and 30)

Summary and Working on your Paper (s)