

Department of Classical Studies
Course Outline
CS 2903B-650: DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT ROME



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. K. Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: Lawson Hall 3227 (661-2111 x 84525)

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 4:00- 5:00 or by appointment (either in-person or on zoom)

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: Asynchronous online. ***PLEASE NOTE: All exams are given in-person. Details to follow.***

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- A. Angela. *A Day in the Life of Ancient Rome*. Europa, 2009 (= Angela)
- M. Gibbs, et al. (eds). *Themes in Roman Society and Culture*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2nd. ed. 2020 (=Gibbs) **Please pay special attention to the study questions at the end of each assigned chapter in this book, as they will appear on the exams.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will re-create the daily lives of the ancient Romans using secondary readings, ancient literature, and art and archaeology. Topics to be covered include social structure,

writing and education, clothing, housing and city life, food and drink, sexuality, slavery, the family, and leisure activities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- have acquired a knowledge of various kinds of ancient Roman daily activities
- identify both iconography and subject matter, and be able to visually analyze ancient art which depicts such activities
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in ancient art within its specific and larger social/historical context
- to understand the important contribution archaeological evidence makes in examining and reconstructing the social history of ancient Rome
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning ancient social history

LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

- an understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and customs and the construction of daily life activities is a product of time, events and context
- a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as actual historical fact

GRADES:

Midterm 1 (***in-person exam, Tuesday Feb 11th, 5:30-6:30 PM**) 30%**

Midterm 2 (***in-person exam, Tuesday Mar 11th, 5:30-6:30 PM**) 30%

Final Exam (***in-person exam**) 40%

= 100%

****Please note that this assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the opportunity to make up this work by a make-up exam.**

IMPORTANT POLICIES:

Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not

eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at:

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-

choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Copyright:

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. I post **very** basic powerpoints on OWL, but listening to the lecture is still **essential** to understand the details of the topic.
2. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the exams **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on an exam.** Nor can I re-weight exams except in cases of documented medical or personal crisis; and I need to hear from your academic counsellor.
3. I am happy to speak to you about your grade based on your performance in the class. I am not willing to discuss your grade based on: 1) the grades you usually receive in other courses; 2) the grade you feel you deserved; 3) the grade you need to get into a special programme.
4. If a lecture and its readings appears on the syllabus, **that lecture and readings will appear on the midterms and final exam**, regardless of whether the lecture is given in-person, uploaded as a document to our OWL site, or recorded and uploaded to the OWL site.
5. Lectures are recorded and posted Monday afternoons. Please **do not** email me requesting lectures be posted early because you have a busy week, have other exams, etc.

Course Outline:

Week of January 6th:

- Introduction
- Roman social structure
- The Topography of Rome I

Reading: Angela pp. 19-21, 65-67, 129-131, 137-139; Gibbs 88-111, 334-337

Week of Jan 13th:

- The Topography of Rome II
- Urban Living

Reading: Angela pp. 22-27, 68-110, 157-178, 200-209, 218-220, 226-241, Gibbs 320-22

Week of Jan 20th:

- Poverty
- The Roman Atrium House I: structure

Reading: Angela pp. 28-44; Gibbs 126-129

Week of Jan 27th:

- The Roman Atrium House II: decoration
- Shopping and Commerce in Ancient Rome

Reading: Angela pp. 111-118, 146-149, 155-156

Week of Feb 3rd:

- The Roman Family I
- The Roman Family II

Reading: Angela pp. 242-247, Gibbs 112-126

Week of Feb 10th:

- Roman slavery I

Reading: Angela pp. 179-194, Gibbs 134-154

- Tues Feb 11th, 5:30-6:30 PM in-person MIDTERM #1

Week of Feb 17th: READING BREAK. NO LECTURES POSTED.

Week of Feb 24th:

- Roman Slavery II

Reading:

- Food and Dining

Reading: Angela 63-64, 262-272, 323-345, 348-355, Gibbs 322-326

Week of Mar 3rd:

- Books, Writing, and Education

Reading: Angela pp. 140-145, 248-252, Gibbs 179-199

- Holidays and Leisure Activities

Reading: 119-128, 132-136, 195-199

Week of Mar 10th:

- Clothing and Adornment

- Tues Mar 11th, 5:30-6:30 PM in-person MIDTERM #2

Week of Mar 17th:

- Bathing

Reading: Angela pp. 273-292, Gibbs 329-334

- Sexuality

Reading: Angela pp. 356-379, Gibbs 155-178

Week of Mar 24th:

- Gladiators and Chariot-Racing I

Reading: Angela pp. 221-225, 253-261, 293-322, Gibbs 297-317

- Gladiators and Chariot-Racing II

Week of Mar 31st:

- Crime and Punishment

Reading: Angela pp. 210-217, Gibbs 277-296

- Roman Religion

Reading: Gibbs 246-276