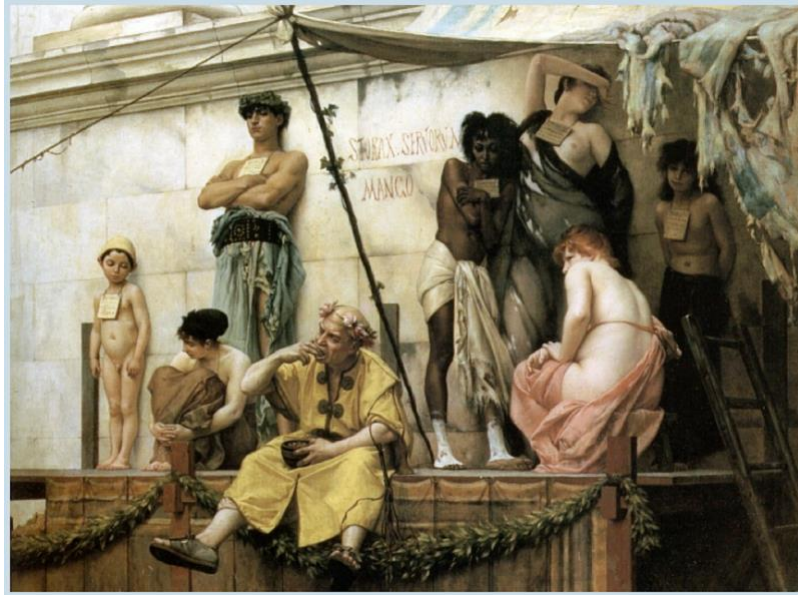


DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE:
Classical Studies 3904G
SLAVERY AND SLAVE LAW IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME
WINTER 2025



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

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

OFFICE HOURS: in person, Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: see OWL Brightspace

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Peter Hunt, *Ancient Greek and Roman Slavery* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017) = **Hunt**
2. E. Bathrellou and K. Vlassopoulos, *Greek and Roman Slavery*. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2022) = **B&V**
3. In addition, there are a variety of book chapters and journal articles I will ask you to read. These vary from week to week. See the 'course readings' button on the OWL site. These readings include some from the online *Cambridge World History of Slavery* (= **CWH**)

COURSE OBJECTIVES The object of this course is to explore various aspects of slavery in the law of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as in ancient society more generally. Among the topics studied will be: Greece and Rome as slave societies, the sources of slaves, the labor and services an enslaved person provided, modes of release from slavery, slavery as a social and

economic class, resistance to and rebellion against slavery, problems of management and control, and slavery and Christianity. We will focus closely on original sources on Greek and Roman slavery and the law, discuss the relationship between law and reality, and attempt to understand the ways in which the holding of enslaved persons affected values and attitudes in antiquity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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

- have acquired a knowledge of various kinds of slavery and slave law in antiquity
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in accounts of ancient slavery within its specific and larger social/historical context
- to understand the important contribution legal evidence makes in examining and reconstructing the social history of ancient Greece and Rome
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning ancient slavery

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 slavery and law is a product of time, events and context
- a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as actual historical fact
- strong writing, research, analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills

GRADES:

- Essay topic, annotated bibliography, first draft 5%
- Essay 25%
- One in-class exam 30%
- Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar) 40%

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.

You may not use a generative AI program in the preparation of your essay bibliography OR to create a final draft of your essay. You MAY use it to create a first draft of your essay.

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. Since tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict.** Plan your schedule ahead of time.

2. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for the material they have missed. I will not review the contents of lectures or repeat announcements for those who arrive late or miss classes. I post **very** basic powerpoints on OWL, but class attendance is still **essential** to understand the details of the lecture.
3. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the tests, the essay, and final examination **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on a test or the final examination.** Nor can I re-weight grades unless I hear from your academic counsellor.
4. If a lecture and its readings appears on the syllabus, **that lecture and readings will appear on the midterm 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.

ESSAYS AND EXAMS:

The in-class exam and the final exam are designed to test the students' visual memory, knowledge of textbook reading, and lectures. The essay (8 -10 pages/2400-3000 words) will be written on a topic of the students' own choosing (please consult me or see the list of essay topics on OWL) and is due **FRIDAY MAR 28th**. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of **5%** per day.

You may not use a generative AI program in the preparation of your essay bibliography OR to create a final draft of your essay. You MAY use it to create a first draft of your essay.

**For exam and essay formats, please see our OWL site.