

CLA 3930 / EUH 3383 / REL 3938 /

Spring, 2014

Tu 8-9, Th 8; 105 Flint Hall

Pagans, Christians, Barbarians: The World of Late Antiquity



Between classical and medieval, pagan and Christian, Roman and barbarian, the late antique world was a civilization in transition. This course will focus on the Mediterranean region from the end of the second to the beginning of the seventh century. We will examine political, cultural, religious and socio-economic transitions that characterized this period looking at elements of continuity as well as change. We will consider the significance of such factors as the conversion of Constantine, the rise of Constantinople, Christian responses to culture, the monastic movement, the persistence of paganism, the fall of Rome, barbarian invasions, Christianization, and developments in philosophy, theology and education.

Prof. Andrea Sterk
E-mail: sterk@ufl.edu

Office: 225 Keene-Flint; Phone: 273-3383
Hours: Tu, 5:00-6:00, Th, 1:30-2:30, & by appt.

Grader/TA: Ralph Patrello; rjpatrello@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Thursday, 9:00-11:00; location: TBA

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Course Description & Objectives

This course will focus on the Mediterranean region from the end of the second to the beginning of the seventh century. We will examine political, cultural, religious and socio-economic transitions that characterized this period looking at elements of continuity as well as change. We will consider the significance of such factors as the conversion of Constantine, the rise of Constantinople, Christian responses to culture, the monastic movement, the persistence of paganism, the fall of Rome, barbarian invasions, Christianization, and developments in philosophy, theology and education.

The course has two complementary goals:

1. To familiarize students with the cultures and societies that co-existed around the Mediterranean in the late antique era (from approximately 150 to 650 CE) and introduce students to the principle developments and events that shaped and changed the Mediterranean world during this period.
2. To help students acquire a critical and analytical approach to history in general through careful reading, writing about and discussion of primary and secondary sources.

Reading

The following books are required and have been ordered at the UF bookstore and Gator Textbooks:

Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity* (Norton)

Robert Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them* (Yale University Press)

Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire* (Penguin)

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (Oxford or Penguin)

Kaldellis, ed. & trans., Prokopius, *The Secret History* (Hackett) - please get this edition!

Recommended: Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks* (This text is available on-line, but since we will be reading major portions, you may prefer to purchase an inexpensive Penguin edition, which has also been ordered at Gator Textbooks and then UF bookstore.)

In addition, rather than buy a thick and expensive course packet, you will read many important primary sources (either whole texts or excerpts) in the *Internet Medieval Sourcebook* and the *Internet Ancient History Sourcebook*. These sources will eventually be accessible through links on the course web page. At times you will be asked to bring a printed copy of a reading to class for the purpose of discussion.

Note: You should come to lecture each day **already having read** whatever is listed for that day on the class schedule. Whatever reading is assigned is fair game for a pop quiz.

Course Requirements

Attendance, Reading, Participation

Students are required to attend all class meetings. You will miss lectures and discussions at your own peril since we will often cover material that is not included in your survey. If you must miss a lecture due to illness or some other unavoidable conflict be sure to get notes from another member of the class. Absences will adversely affect your grade for the course. 3 missed classes will result in a half grade reduction on your final grade; each additional absence will result in a further half grade reduction.

Though this is primarily a lecture course, at least some time during most class periods will be devoted to questions and/or discussion. On 7 or 8 class days during the semester we will devote a more substantial period of time to discussion of the readings. You will also be asked to write short (1-paragraph to 1-page) responses to primary source texts we are discussing. These short assignments will count toward your participation grade for the course. Your short (2-pg.) written response to the reading of Augustine's *Confessions* will receive a separate grade. Occasional pop quizzes will also be administered. These quizzes will be based on the assigned reading.

Two Short Papers

a) The first paper will be a 3-page (800-900 word) analysis of a chapter in Robert Wilken's book *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. Although your paper will focus on a chapter of your choice, you must hand in notes on the entire book. Further description of this paper assignment will be given in class.

b) The second paper, approximately 6 pages in length will be a chronicle or autobiographical account covering a short period of the late antique world and written in the voice of a late antique man or woman of a particular geographical region. For example, one might adopt the persona of a Roman senator, an Egyptian monk, a wealthy ascetic woman, a barbarian soldier, a pagan philosopher, a North African peasant or a Gallic aristocrat. Creativity is encouraged in the composition of these chronicles! However, any descriptions of geography, culture(s) or major events must be historically accurate and based on solid research. You must also submit your paper topic to me for approval before you start writing. This paper is due in class the last day, April 19, or in my office by noon on Thursday, April 25. It must include a bibliography of sources consulted in research, and it may also incorporate footnotes.

Mid-Term and Final Exam

The mid-term and final exams will include a combination of objective questions (multiple choice/short-answer/ identifications) and essays. These exams will be designed to test both your mastery of significant details (who, what, when, where) of the history the course covers and your ability to synthesize details and themes in support of a coherent argument.

Grade Calculation:

Paper #1: 15%

Paper #2: 20%

Augustine Response Paper: 5%

Pop quizzes: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Participation: 10%

Grading Scale:

A = 92.5-100

A- = 90-92.4

B+ = 87.5-89.9

B = 82.5-87.4

B- = 80-82.4

C+ = 77.5-79.9

C = 72.5-77.4

C- = 70-72.4

D+ = 67.5-69.9

D = 62.5-67.4

D- = 60-62.4

F = Below 60

Schedule of Lectures, Discussions, Readings & Assignments

(subject to modification)

DATE	TOPIC	READING & ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 1		
Tu, 1/7	Introductions and Course Overview	
Th, 1/9	The Roman World in Late Antiquity: The Actors & the Stage	Brown, Preface & chapter 1 (pp. 7-21) Map of Roman Empire c.200
WEEK 2		
Tu, 1/14	Romans and Barbarians The Third Century: Crisis or Transition?	How to Read a Document (Guidelines on reading primary-source texts) Brown, chapters 2-3 Tacitus, <i>Germania</i> (1st 7 pp; end after section entitled "Funeral Rites") 1-page assignment: Based on your reading of Tacitus, answer one of the questions in Level II.3 or III.2 in the document "How to Read a Document." One paragraph is sufficient. No more than one page!
Th, 1/16	Recovery: The Reforms of Diocletian	Diocletian & the fourfold division of empire Theodosian Code (excerpts) Brown, chapters 4 & 5 Recommended: Read more about Diocletian here Start Robert Wilken, <i>The Christians as the Romans Saw Them</i>
WEEK 3		
Tu, 1/21	The Religious World of the Roman Empire Christianity Before Constantine: Internal Developments & Roman Responses	Robert Wilken, <i>The Christians as the Romans Saw Them</i> (at least chaps. 1-3) Pliny the Younger, Letter on the Christians Diocletian: Edicts Against Christians Certificate of having sacrificed to the gods Porphyry, <i>Against the Christians</i> (1-page excerpt)
Th, 1/23	Discussion: Martyrdom	The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua & Felicitas 1-page assignment due! Click here for questions & assignment.
WEEK 4		
Tu,	Pagan Piety and Philosophy	Brown, chap. 6 Wilken, chaps. 4-6

1/28	Constantine, Christianity & Greco-Roman Culture	<p>Marcus Aurelius, <i>The Meditations</i> (excerpts) Plotinus, <i>On Beauty</i> (Ennead I.6; focus on sections 1, 2, 8, & 9) Questions on Marcus Aurelius and Plotinus are available for your reflection. Please read & consider before class.</p> <p>Brown, chapter 7 Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>Life of Constantine</i>, Book I, skim 1-10; read I.10-47 (Focus on the excerpts re. the conversion of Constantine: Conversion of Constantine) - Questions on text posted here Eusebius of Caesarea, Eccl. History, Book IX, chapter ix Zosimus, Book II.29-34 (A pagan Roman historian's view of Constantine)</p>
Th, 1/30	Church and State After Constantine	<p>The Creed of Nicaea Eusebius of Caesrea, <i>Life of Constantine</i>, excerpts from Books 3 and 4 Ambrose, Letter to Emperor Theodosius</p>
WEEK 5		
Tu, 2/4	<p>Desert Christians: The Rise of the Monastic Movement</p> <p>Monastic Life: Distinctive Features & Appeal</p>	<p>Brown, chap. 8 Athanasius, <i>Life of Anthony</i> (long excerpt) Recommended: Athanasius, <i>Life of Anthony</i> (full text)</p> <p>Palladius, <i>Lausiac History</i> (selections) The Rule of St. Benedict (selections) Recommended: Gregory of Nyssa, <i>Life of Macrina</i></p>
Th, 2/6	<p>Discussion: Varieties of Monastic Life for Men & Women (Discussion of monastic texts listed under Th, 2/4)</p>	<p>1-page assignment due! Click here for study and discussion questions. <i>Note:</i> Be sure to bring all required texts to class for discussion!</p>
WEEK 6		
Tu, 2/11	<p>Emperor Julian and Fourth-Century Paganism</p> <p>After Julian: Pagans, Jews, & Heretics in the "Christian" Roman Empire</p>	<p>Finish Wilken, chapter 7 Julian, Rescript on Christian Teachers Ammianus Marcellinus (Bk. 14.1,5,7,9-11; Bk. 15.1-3 & 8; Bk.20.4-5 & 8-10; Bk. 21.1-5 &15) STUDY GUIDE to Ammianus Marcellinus (including questions) Dispute between Ambrose & Symmachus</p>
Th, 2/13	The Late Roman State: Government & Economy	<p>Ammianus Marcellinus (Bk.22.1-5 & 9-14; Bk. 23.1; Bk. 24.1-5 (skim) & 6-8; Bk. 25.3-5, 7, 9; Bk. 15.12-13; Bk. 18.4-19.9; Bk. 31.1-4 & 12-16)</p> <p>Paper #1 due in class! (Click here for paper assignment)</p>

WEEK 7

Tu, 2/18	The Late Roman State: Barbarians & the Military (with discussion)	Finish Tuesday's Ammianus reading See Ammianus STUDY GUIDE for questions & assignment. (Written assignment due 2/20 but be prepared to discuss questions today!)
Th, 2/20	Latin Christian Culture, I: High Culture	Brown, 9 (115-middle of 122) Ammianus Marcellinus (Bk.14.6; 16.10; 17.4; 19.10) 1-page assignment on Ammianus due! Start Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (through Book 5 by the midterm)

WEEK 8

Tu, 2/25	Popular Christian Piety: The Cult of the Saints The East Roman Empire (c. 400)	Sulpicius Severus, Life of St. Martin Ammianus Marcellinus Bk. 29.1-2
Th, 2/27	Midterm Exam (in class)	No new reading. Review for midterm!
3/1-3/9	SPRING BREAK	Continue reading Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , through Book 10. Study Questions ; 2-page paper due Tu, 3/18

WEEK 9

Tu, 3/11	Women in Late Antiquity Introduce final paper assignment	The Acts of Paul and Thecla 3 short accounts of the murder of Hypatia (Read introductory material also) Continue reading Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>
Th, 3/13	Augustine of Hippo	Brown, end of 9 & 10 (122-135)

WEEK 10

Tu, 3/18	Discussion: Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> The Quiet Fall of the Western Roman Empire	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , through Book X Study Questions on the <i>Confessions</i> 2-page paper due (This one will be graded!)
Th, 3/20	...Meanwhile in the East: From Theodosius II to Anastasius	Brown, chapter 11 Formula of Chalcedon (451) Work on paper topic

WEEK 11

Tu, 3/25	"Barbarians" & The Fall of Rome: Theories & Realities [Short lecture with discussion]	At the Court of Attila the Hun Edward Gibbon, On the Fall of the Roman Empire (excerpt) Augustine, City of God (excerpts on the 2 cities)
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	East-West Tensions: A Parting of Ways	Click here for questions on these documents. Bring documents with you to class for discussion!
Th, 3/27	The New Barbarian World	Sidonius Apollinaris, "Country House Life in Gaul" & "A Visigothic King" Sidonius Apollinaris, "A Barbarous Roman" (the second of 2 brief letters) Gregory of Tours, <i>History of the Franks</i> , Bk. II (excerpts) Final paper topic must be submitted and approved by today!
WEEK 12		
Tu, 4/1	Clovis and the Franks (with discussion)	Complete 3/27 readings. Be prepared to discuss questions on Sidonius Apollinaris and Gregory's <i>History of the Franks</i> (Bk. II) in class! 1 page assignment due
Th, 4/3	The Reign of Justinian: Theology Politics and War	Brown, chapter 12 2 short excerpts from Procopius, <i>On the Wars</i> : Justinian Suppresses the Nika Revolt & Reconquest of North Africa Start Procopius, <i>Secret History</i> (must be finished by Th, 4/7)
WEEK 13		
Tu, 4/8	The Reign of Justinian: Art, Architecture, & Culture	Procopius, On Buildings (short excerpt)
Th, 4/10	Discussion: <i>Secret History</i>	Finish Procopius, <i>Secret History</i> ; (Questions) 1-page assignment due
WEEK 14		
Tu, 4/15	The Decline of Romanitas in the West: Society, Education & the Church	Gregory of Tours, <i>History of the Franks</i> (excerpts) Law of the Salian Franks Recommended: Cassiodorus, <i>On Divine and Human Readings</i> (excerpt) Click here for questions on the reading!
Th, 4/17	Shrinking Borders: From East Roman to Byzantine Empire Part I: Slavs & Persians	Brown, 13 & 14 Antiochus Strategos, The Sack of Jerusalem (614) Recommended: A Zoroastrian Catechism
WEEK 15		
Tu, 4/22	Shrinking Borders, Part II: The Rise of Islam Cultural & Social Change in the East Roman World	Brown, 15 & 16 (finish by end of class) The Battle of Yarmuk (636) The Pact of Umar

Th, 4/24	No class. Reading days.	Paper #2 due in my office (225 Flint) by Th, 4/24
Date TBA	Final Examination	Bring bluebook for essay and short answer section