

CLA 6930 GREEK AND ROMAN SLAVERY

Spring 2025

Mondays 7:00-9:30 p.m. Eastern in Zoom (see 'Zoom Conferences' in Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Velvet L. Yates

Email: vyates@ufl.edu (or Canvas mail)

Office Hours: Wednesday 5:00-7:00 pm Eastern in Zoom, and by appointment.

Dr. Yates' personal Zoom room: <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/yates6>

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To improve understanding of the role of slavery in ancient Greek and Roman societies, through a primarily literary approach, and study the reception of ancient arguments about slavery in the modern era.

TEXTBOOKS

REQUIRED (provided in Canvas):

Peter Hunt, *Slavery in Ancient Greece and Rome*.

Peter Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine*.

Other primary readings (in translation) and secondary readings to be supplied.

TECHNOLOGY

A headset microphone is recommended for this class. Students using their device's built-in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

Technical difficulties: See the E-Learning help page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>) or contact the UF Help Desk (helpdesk@ufl.edu).

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

1. Please give the class your full attention for the full meeting. Let me know ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict for a particular class, and we can accommodate you (and not deduct from the attendance grade). If you do need to leave the class for a short period to attend to something (like a small child), that's fine - just let me know (by e.g. a private message in Zoom).
2. The course grade will be based largely on homework and class participation, including class presentations, along with the final project. Late homework will be accepted only with a very good reason.
3. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

4. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

5. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

Course content:

Students will post brief responses (about 500 words) to the readings in the discussion board for each week, and share their responses in the live class. Responses can take the form of an essay, and/or questions, comments, observations, follow-up reading, images, etc. As long as the response is a thoughtful reaction to or elaboration upon the weekly reading, there is no restriction as to format.

Students will also make 2 article presentations to the class. The presentation will consist of a short (no more than 1000 words) written and oral review of a secondary resource. The first article report should be drawn from a list that I will supply (outside articles will be allowed with permission). The second report should be on an article of the student's own choosing. It will be important for students to 'claim' their article beforehand in the discussion boards for the reports, so that there is no duplication of article reports.

The Final Project will be the student's choice of either a research paper or a pedagogical project (e.g., a lesson plan for teaching a module on ancient slavery to a high-school class; developing an online resource or video for researching or teaching the topic).

GRADING See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> on grading policies.

- 25% Attendance and participation
- 25% Homework (due each week in Canvas by Monday 8 am Eastern time)
- 10% First article report
- 10% Second article report

- 10% Rough draft of Final Project and meeting [aim for about half done by the meeting]
- 20% Final Project

Grading Scale

A	100-93
A-	90-92
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	80-82
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	70-72
D	69-67
D	66-63
D-	60-62
E	59 or lower

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Hunt for historical context; Garnsey for literary/philosophical attitudes. After reading Hunt and Garnsey, there will be more focused readings, especially concerning Aristotle's Theory of Natural Slavery.)

Tentative plans for class discussions (article readings may be added, especially in latter part of semester):

- 1 (1/27): Hunt 1-3; Garnsey Introduction
- 2 (2/3): Hunt 4-7; Garnsey Part 1, ch. 2-4
- 3 (2/10): Hunt 8-10; Garnsey Part I, ch. 5-7
- 4 (2/24): Hunt 11-13; Garnsey Part II, Section I
- 5 (3/3): Garnsey Part II, Section II and Section III; Conclusion
- 6 (3/10): Kapparis chapter; Plato/Aristotle article
- 7 (3/31): Aristotle; Yates "Politics of the Deformed"
- 8 (4/7): Isaac on 'environmentalism'; modern pseudo-Darwinist race theories (Yates, *Eidolon*); Bond controversy
- 9 (4/21): catch-up or Sobrino talk on St. Paul and Seneca - attitudes towards slavery and the emperor

Week 1 1/13: Introductions and Syllabus

Readings for 1/27: Hunt chapters 1 - 3; Garnsey Introduction

Week 2 [no class 1/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day]

Week 3 1/27

Readings for next week: Hunt 4-7; Garnsey Part 1, ch. 2-4

Week 4 2/3

Readings for next week: Hunt 8-10; Garnsey Part I, ch. 5-7

Week 5 2/10

Readings for 2/24: Hunt 11-13; Garnsey Part II, Section I

Week 6 2/17:

[First Article Reports](#)

Week 7 2/24

Readings for next week: Garnsey Part II, Section II and Section III; Conclusion

Week 8 3/3

Readings for next week: Kapparis chapter; Plato/Aristotle article

Week 9 3/10

Readings for 3/31: Aristotle; Yates "Politics of the Deformed"

Week 10 3/17 no class Spring Break

Week 11 3/24

[Second Article Reports](#)

Week 12 3/31

Readings for next week: Isaac on 'environmentalism'; modern pseudo-Darwinist race theories (Yates, *Eidolon*); Bond controversy

Week 13 4/7:

Readings for 4/21: catch-up or Sobrino talk on St. Paul and Seneca - attitudes towards slavery and the emperor

Rough drafts due: Friday, April 11, midnight Eastern time

Week 14 4/14:

[Rough Draft Meetings](#)

Week 15 4/21

FINAL PROJECT DUE: 4/28 midnight Eastern time

CAMPUS RESOURCES (some of these won't apply if you're outside Gainesville)

Health and Wellness:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to

using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)