

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**HISTORY 503.03**  
**THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE, 180–476 CE**

Call #: 11210-4  
M W 12:30–2:18 p.m.  
Scott Laboratory [SO], Rm. 0001

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## **SAMPLE MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Be sure to read everything carefully and follow all the directions. You will have the entire class session to complete the midterm exam. In keeping with the guidelines spelled out on the course syllabus, all students will be expected to take this exam at the regularly scheduled day and time. Late submissions will be penalized 1 (ONE) letter grade for the midterm per day late. The midterm examination is worth 30 % of your final grade for this course, so do your best work!

### **PART 1: PRIMARY SOURCE PASSAGES**

IDENTIFY 3 (THREE) of 5 (FIVE) primary source passages. In no more than about 1 page for each passage, IDENTIFY the source (Who wrote it? When? Where?), give the CONTEXT of the passage (Concerning whom or what is this written work in general and this passage in particular relevant?), and discuss its SIGNIFICANCE for understanding the historical forces at work in the period in question (Why is the passage important for understanding the later Roman empire and what does it reveal about the period?).

#### **SAMPLE PASSAGE ID:**

“I was in these places, and saw many of the executions for myself. Some of the victims suffered death by beheading, others punishment by fire. So many were killed on a single day that the axe, blunted and worn out by the slaughter, was broken in pieces, while the exhausted executioners had to be periodically relieved. All the time I observed a most wonderful eagerness and a truly divine power and enthusiasm in those who had put their trust in the Christ of God. No sooner had the first batch been sentenced, than others from every side would jump on the platform in front of the judge and proclaim themselves Christians. They paid no heed to torture in all its terrifying forms, but undaunted spoke boldly of their devotion to the God of the universe and with joy, laughter, and gaiety received the final sentence of death: they sang and sent up hymns of thanksgiving to the God of the universe till their very last breath.”

## **PART 2: ESSAY**

SELECT 1 (ONE) of 2 (TWO) essay questions to answer based on the material presented and / or discussed in our lectures, discussions, and readings. In no more than about 7 (SEVEN) exam book pages, devise a response that addresses ALL parts of the question. In your answer, be sure to support your assertions with reference to SPECIFIC EVIDENCE (dates, names, places, and terms) and the assigned PRIMARY SOURCES whenever possible.

### **SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTION**

“Among his many accomplishments, the Emperor Diocletian is best known for bringing an end to the “Crisis of the Third Century” through a series of military, economic, administrative, social, and religious reforms to the Roman Empire. Discuss these reforms. Based on the primary sources, the other readings, and our discussion, what changes implemented by Diocletian were most significant for restoring Rome’s stability? Why? Defend your answer.”