

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HISTORY 503.03

THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE, 180–476 C.E.

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

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OBJECTIVES

History 503.03 presents an overview of one of the most interesting and important of all historical periods: the age of the “decline and fall of the Roman empire.” This course will trace the Roman world from the peak of its power and prosperity through subsequent period of crisis, reorganization, and upheaval, culminating in the collapse of the Roman political state and the end of the Roman world in the West.

Some of the primary themes that will be stressed throughout this course will be:

1. The nature of the Roman empire at its height, the reasons for its success and strength;
2. The causes for the crisis and collapse in the 3rd century;
3. The reorganization of the state by Diocletian and Constantine and the creation of autocracy;
4. The conversion of the empire to Christianity and the conflict between paganism and Christianity;
5. The nature and impact of the barbarian invasions;
6. The rich cultural legacy of the later Roman age;
7. The reasons for the fall of the empire in the West and its survival in the East.

TEXTS

The following texts are available at the closed reserves desk in the Sullivant Hall Library and for purchase at the bookstores and online:

Assigned Texts:

Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1989).
Averil Cameron, *The Later Roman Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993).
Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. R.S. Pine-Coffin (Penguin Classics, 1961).
Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire, A.D. 354-378*, trans. Walter Hamilton (Penguin Classics, 1986).
Lives of the Later Caesars, trans. Anthony Birley (Penguin Classics, 1976).
Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, trans. G.A. Williamson (Penguin Classics, 1990).
N. Lewis and M. Reinhold, *Roman Civilization: Selected Readings, Volume II: The Empire*, 3rd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990).

Recommended:

M. Cary & H.H. Scullard, *A History of Rome, Down to the Reign Constantine*, 3rd ed. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984).

In addition to these texts, a few other assigned readings will be passed out in class or made available electronically on the Carmen site for this course.

REQUIREMENTS

Students of History 503.03 are required to complete one midterm and one final exam and to turn in a term paper [See forthcoming handout] in order to pass this course. Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam = 30 %
Term Paper = 30 %
Final Exam = 40 %
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TOTAL = 100 %

GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

A	100–93%	B+	89–87%	C+	79–77%	D+	69–67%
A–	92–90%	B	86–83%	C	76–73%	D	66–60%
		B–	82–80%	C–	72–70%	E	59–00%

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in collegiate education. Thus, I expect that all students have read and understand the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all assignments with the utmost fairness and honesty. Failure to follow the rules and guidelines set forth in the *Code* may constitute academic misconduct. The *Code* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as **“any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subverts the educational process.”** Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the rules is never an excuse, so I recommend that you review the *Code* if you feel that you are unfamiliar with its content. If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines that a student has violated the *Code* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions could include a failing grade in this course, academic suspension, or dismissal from the University. Please consult COAM’s web site (oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html) or speak with me if you have any questions.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

Enrollment: All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by me, the department chair, or anyone else after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every scheduled session of the class, and I will regularly pass around a sign-up sheet to confirm that you do so. Absences can only be excused for pressing medical reasons or other dire personal circumstances (e.g., a death in the family), military service, or for participation in official University activities, such as a musical performance or athletic competition. Proper documentation is required for all excused absences. **Students who acquire FOUR or more unexcused absences over the course of the quarter will be penalized ONE letter grade for their final grade for each missed class.**

Exams and Assignments: All students are expected to take the exams and turn in all other assignments at the announced dates and times. **Students who fail to do so will be penalized ONE letter grade for the assignment per day.** If you miss a scheduled exam, it is entirely your responsibility to contact me and arrange to take a make-up exam as soon as possible.

Special Arrangements: If you have a learning disability or other extraordinary need requiring some special arrangement, please come see me during my office hours and I will be happy to accommodate you.

HST 503.03 SP 2007 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION: THE ROMAN EMPIRE AT ITS HEIGHT

Readings:

Lives of the Later Caesars, Introduction, pp. 161–316

Brown, pp. 7–21

Cameron, pp. 1–29

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 372–383

WEEK TWO: THE 3rd-c. CRISIS & REFORM

Readings:

Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, Bks. 5–8

Brown, pp. 22–80

Cameron, pp. 30–46

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 413–426, 548–550, 566–571

WEEK THREE: THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE

Readings:

Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, Bks. 9–10

Brown, pp. 82–94

Cameron, pp. 47–65

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 571–582

WEEK FOUR: THE CHRISTIAN EMPIRE

Readings:

Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire (AD 354–378)*

Cameron, pp. 66–98

WEEK FIVE: THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS

Readings:

Cameron, pp. 99–169

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 390–394

WEEK SIX: LATER ROMAN SOCIETY

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

WEEK SEVEN: MONASTICISM & CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Readings:

Brown, pp. 96–112

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 599–608

WEEK EIGHT: CHRISTIAN & PAGAN SOCIETY

Readings:

Augustine, *Confessions*

Cameron, pp. 170–194

Lewis & Reinhold, pp. 584–589, 609–618

TERM PAPER DUE

WEEK NINE: THE 5th-c. EMPIRE

Readings:

Brown, pp. 115–135

WEEK TEN: THE REVIVAL OF THE WEST & THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Readings:

Brown, pp. 137–159, 160–203

WEEK ELEVEN

FINAL EXAMINATION

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