

**HIST 585-4: Special Topics in History:**

Topic: Slavery in the Roman World

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Evans-Grubbs	TH	4:15 – 7:15 pm	12

**Semester Description:**

The past two decades have seen a revolution in scholarly approaches to slavery in the ancient Mediterranean, as elsewhere. In this course we will examine current issues in the study of slavery in the Roman Mediterranean world from c.200 BCE to 500 CE. Topics will include: the rise of Roman chattel slavery due to Rome's conquest of the Mediterranean and its impact on Roman society; gender and slavery, including sexual exploitation of slaves and master/slave relationships; manumission and the life of freed people, for which considerable evidence exists; material evidence for slavery, including the representation of slave bodies and archaeological finds relating to slavery; slaves and slavery as depicted in classical literature; early Christianity and slavery; and the debate over the "end" of ancient slavery in late antiquity. In addition, we will look at comparative evidence for and interpretations of slaves in other "slave societies", including slavery in classical Greece, the re-emergence of slavery in the early modern Mediterranean, and the beginnings of the Atlantic slave trade and the New World. Students specializing in other time periods or areas are most welcome in the course.

**Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**

Readings (some of these will be available for purchase in the bookstore; all are either available on-line through the library or will be on course reserve):

1. Keith Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome*. Cambridge U. Press, 1994.  
**ISBN:** 978-0521378871 (paperback).
2. Keith Bradley, *Slaves and Masters in the Roman Empire*. Oxford University Press, 1984.  
**ISBN:** 978-0195206074 (paperback).
3. M.I. Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology*. Expanded edition with introduction and essays by Brent Shaw. Princeton: Marcus Wiener Publishers, 1998.  
**ISBN:** 978-1558761704 (paperback).
4. Peter Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine*. Cambridge U. Press, 1996.  
**ISBN:** 978-0521574331 (paperback).
5. Kyle Harper, *Slavery in the Late Roman World AD 275-425*. Cambridge U. Press, 2011.  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1107640818 (paperback).
6. Keith Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves*. Cambridge U. Press, 1978.  
**ISBN:** 978-0521281812 (paperback).

7. Sandra Joshel, *Slavery in the Roman World*. Cambridge U. Press, 2010.  
**ISBN:** 978-0-521-53501-4 (paperback).
8. Niall McKeown, *The Invention of Ancient Slavery?* London: Duckworth, 2007.  
**ISBN:** 978-0-7156-3185-0 (paperback).
9. Henrik Mouritsen, *The Freedman in the Roman World*. Cambridge U. Press, 2011.  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1107519084 (paperback).
10. Matthew Perry, *Gender, Manumission, and the Roman Freedwoman*. Cambridge U. Press, 2014.  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1107697638.
11. Brent Shaw, *Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martins, 2001.  
**ISBN:** 978-0-312-18310-3 (paperback).

In addition, students will read articles in edited collections (especially the *Cambridge World History of Slavery*, vol. 1) and scholarly journals that deal with ancient slavery or comparative perspectives on slavery.

**Grading:**

Assignments include three short oral presentations on particular sources or scholarship and a 25 page historiographical essay or research paper on some aspect of ancient or comparative slavery. In addition, students will send in short weekly responses to the assigned readings and are expected to attend and participate actively in all classes.