

**HIST 585-004: Special Topics in History:**

Topic: Ancient Slavery: Comparative (OPUS Title) or  
Ancient Slavery: A Comparative Perspective (Complete Course Title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Evans Grubbs & Patterson	M	4:00 – 7:00 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 Greek and Roman slavery, including: slavery and the economy in archaic and classical Greece; slavery and citizenship in classical Athens; slavery and helotage at Sparta; slavery in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt; the rise of Roman chattel slavery and its impact on Roman slavery; gender and slavery in the Greek and Roman worlds; manumission and the life of freedpeople; 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, the instructors (both of whom have published on aspects of ancient slavery and status) are particularly interested in comparative approaches to slavery, especially slavery in the early modern Mediterranean and the New World. Students specializing in other time periods or areas are most welcome in the course.

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

1. Jean Andrau and Raymond Descat, *The Slave in Greece and Rome*. University of Wisconsin, 2011 (orig. French 2006). ISBN: 978-029928374-2 (paperback).
2. Keith Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome*. Cambridge U. Press, 1994. ISBN: 978-0521378871 (paperback).
3. Keith Bradley, *Slaves and Masters in the Roman Empire*. Oxford University Press, 1984. ISBN: 978-0195206074 (paperback).
4. 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).
5. Peter Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine*. Cambridge U. Press, 1996. ISBN: 978-0521574331 (paperback).
6. Keith Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves*. Cambridge U. Press, 1978. ISBN: 978-0521281812 (paperback).

7. Niall McKeown, *The Invention of Ancient Slavery?* London: Duckworth, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-7156-3185-0 (paperback).
8. Brent Shaw, *Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martins, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-312-18310-3 (paperback).

**On Reserve in the Library:**

9. *The Cambridge World History of Slavery Volume 1: The Ancient Mediterranean World*. Edited by Keith Bradley and Paul Cartledge. Cambridge U. Press, 2011.
10. *Ancient Slavery and Abolition, from Hobbes to Hollywood*. Edited by Edith Hall, Richard Alston, and Justine McConnell. Oxford U. Press, 2011.
11. *Slave Systems: Ancient and Modern*. Edited by Enrico dal Lago and Constantina Katsari. Cambridge U. Press, 2008.
12. *From Captivity to Freedom: Themes in Ancient and Modern Slavery*, ed. Constantina Katsari and Enrico del Lago, 2008.
13. *The Faces of Freedom: The Manumission and Emancipation of Slaves in Old World and New World Slavery*, edited by Marc Kleijwegt. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
14. *Slavery in the Late Roman World AD 275-425*, by Kyle Harper. Cambridge U. Press, 2011.
15. *The Freedman in the Roman World*, by Henrik Mouritsen. Cambridge U. Press, 2011.
16. *Reading Ancient Slavery*, ed. Richard Alston, Edith Hall and Laura Proffitt. Bristol Classical Press, 2011.
17. *Slaves and Religions in Graeco-Roman Antiquity and Modern Brazil*, ed. Stephen Hodkinson and Dick Geary. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.
18. *Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture*, ed. Michele George. University of Toronto Press, 2013.

In addition, students will read articles in edited collections and scholarly journals that deal with ancient slavery or comparative perspectives on slavery.

**Grading:**

- Assignments include 2 short (5-7 page) book reviews and a 15 page historiographical essay 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.