**CLST 320 (Greek and Roman Slavery) Fall 2015**

**Paper outline instructions.**

**Due at the start of class September 28th.**

Before you write a paper, you will have to write a paper outline. I will not accept a final paper unless you have submitted a paper outline.

**I Paper outline: 5% of final grade**

This is a short (250-400 words) outline and discussion of your aims and prospective arguments in your term paper, along with a list of primary (ancient) and secondary (modern and academic) sources you will use. You must include at least 4 **relevant,** academic sources which have been published in the last 30 years.[[1]](#footnote-1) An academic source is a journal article, book (or book section), or other peer reviewed publication. Online sources that are not academic include, but are not limited to: Wikipedia, whoever Luther Gorean is, anything on Quora or any sort of public answer thread (yes, that includes reddit), Spartacus educational, or most likely anything that turns up when you type ‘Greek and Roman slavery’ into Google.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**But Wikipedia! It’s the modern way! It’s really old-fashioned not to consider this a good source. It’s got footnotes!** Let’s start with the entry on Roman slavery, which contains this wondrous and completely mind-boggling assertion: “There are reports of abuse of slaves by Romans, but there is little information to indicate how widespread such harsh treatment was”. This is so very wrong that I don’t know where to start. After a few weeks into this course, you too will think this is about the dumbest thing you could write. I could pick out more, but it’s like shooting fish in a barrel. Not sure why the ancient slavery ones are so terrible, but they are.

**Fair enough. I won’t use Wikipedia. But I want to know why I am being made to do this.** You will have to write a research paper or complete a digital research project[[3]](#footnote-3) for this class. Completing this outline will help you formulate your research area and mean that you are not left writing this from scratch when it is due. It will also help you see if there is enough material available for you to write a paper on (there isn’t always with some topics). It will also help me offer advice and suggestions and let you know if I think you’re on a viable track for a research paper.

**What if I change my mind about my paper topic and want to write about something else suddenly in mid-October?** I understand that it may happen that as we progress through the course, your interests may shift and your final paper may not be exactly what you said it would be. That’s fine; you simply write me an email and we will talk briefly about your new direction and see if it a viable one. You will not have to write a new outline, but you will need to talk to me.

**It’s an outline – does it have to be proofread? Can it be in point form?** It must be proofread, be written in complete sentences, and in reasonably formal style. If I receive something with a large number of typos and clearly written with wild abandon in the 10 minutes before the class, I will give it back to you to proofread further and correct before I mark it.

**How will this be marked? If you hand it in on time,** it will be marked on a credit/no credit basis. If you pass you, get 5%. If you fail, you get 0. If you fail, however, you can rewrite and hand in the revised version 7 days later and I will remark with no penalty.

**That seems a bit harsh. 5% is quite a bit of a grade to lose totally.** Fear not!Anyone who gets a mark of no credit will be allowed one rewrite to be handed in 7 days after you receive your mark.

**How do I pick a topic? Do I get to decide what I write on or is there a list?** A list of topics and prompts are available on the course website but you may instead write on another, **appropriate and relevant** topic instead. If you’re not sure if a topic is either appropriate or relevant, just email me.

**So, I write this up and what happens?** You will get it back with a set of comments from me. These are intended to help you as you write your paper and you are expected to take them into consideration when writing the paper.

**Wait. So I have to write the final paper following your comments and suggestions, even if I disagree?**  No. This is not intended to be prescriptive; if you disagree with a suggestion, you don’t have to incorporate it. But you should have a reason why you disagree and evidence to back up your point. Let’s say, for example, you want to argue that field slaves were frequently freed, and I point out that runs counter to our evidence, all scholarly opinion, and what we know from comparative slave societies. If you disagree, you would need to address that point and provide evidence for your argument. (Most cases won’t be that drastic.) This is really intended to help you make sure you have an argument, evidence and some scholarly support before you write the final paper.

**When is this due again? Can I email it?** It is due in hard copy by the start of class on September 28th. That means *before* class starts. Not during. Not after.

**What happens if I am late handing it in and don’t have a documented reason?** There is a late penalty of 10% per day. You also lose the ability to rewrite your paper proposal, should I give it a grade of no credit.

1. While there is much valuable older work on ancient and modern slavery, there’s an awful lot of truly awful stuff written by people with, shall we charitably say, odd notions about how other people should be treated. While you still (amazingly) encour apologists for slavery in modern material, it is much less likely than a random site to have some insane argument that tries to justify ancient slavery based on race or ethnicity. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Yes, this is how I found Luther Gorean. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. People who are interested in this option should make an appointment to see me to discuss what I mean by this. They will still have to hand in a proposal for their project by the 28th. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)