CLST 320: Greek and Roman Slavery

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3-3.50 pm

Location: Buchanan D201

Instructor: Siobhán McElduff

Office: Buchanan C203

Office hours: Monday 2-3; Wednesday 1-2; or by appointment

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From democratic Athens to imperial Rome, the ancient economies of Greece and Rome ran on slave labour and slavery pervaded all areas of life: farming; industry; families; the civil service; police; and more. This course will examine the Greek and Roman worlds as slave societies and how slavery was integrated into all social structures and accepted as natural. We will examine: if/how slavery was questioned or attacked; how did people(s) react to being enslaved; what was the daily life of slaves like; how slaves were essential components of ancient economies; and whether we can use modern accounts of the experience of modern slaves to understand the experiences of ancient slaves.

**Content warning:** Slavery is among the most abusive institutions that human society has created. Given that, the subject matter of this course is frequently very disturbing and involves people doing a range of truly horrific things to other people, while denying them their humanity. Reading this material is often very difficult and that is particularly true when reading modern slave narratives, such as those by Douglass and Jacobs. There is no way to do a study of slavery that is true to its horrific nature without reading these materials.

**Prerequisites:** there are prerequisites for this class. I will assume a basic knowledge of major events in classical history, classical society, and social structures, and the geography of the ancient Mediterranean.

**Marking/assignments and exams**

Quizzes: 15% (each worth 5%: best 3 out of 4 grades will be taken)

Midterm: 20%

Final: 30% (Open book: both Wiedemann and Shaw may be used in the exam)

Paper outline: 5% (due in hard copy at the start of class **September 28th). This must be handed in before you can write the paper**

Paper: 30% (due in hard copy at the start of class, **November 27th)**

**Required Textbooks:** ThomasWiedemann, *Greek and Roman Slavery (Routledge Sourcebooks for the Ancient World)* (New York: 1998); Brent Shaw *Spartacus and the Slave Wars* (New York: 2001).

**Optional, but highly recommended:** Keith Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome.* (Cambridge: 1994)

Both the Wiedemann and Shaw books are collections of ancient sources, with minimal commentary and introductory comments. Bradley’s book is a discussion and history of slavery in Rome; it is very helpful and well-written, and is strongly recommended. You should certainly read if it you write a paper on Roman slavery.

The sources in Wiedemann are numbered and they are referred to in the schedule of classes by those numbers, **not** by page number. Some are very short – a sentence or two – others are longer. Each ancient source has introductory notes written by Wiedemann which contains much useful information. Sources in Shaw are also numbered and they are referred to in the schedule of classes by those numbers, **not** by page number. I have also listed the relevant chapters of Bradley’s work for some classes; these are optional, but helpful.

Readings should be done before each class. Sometimes the same readings are repeated for a number of classes.

**Schedule of classes:**

Wednesday, September 9th: First day of classes; course expectations and introduction

Friday, September 11: the basics I: terms and definitions

Readings: Wiedemann# 16-20 (debt slavery), 80 (different names for and types of slaves)

Optional: Bradley, “The Slave Society of Rome” (pp. 10-30)

Monday, September 14: the basics II: evidence and sources

Links on course website to visual and other sources for North American slavery

Wednesday, September 16: the basics III: ancient theories and views of slavery and slaves

Readings: Wiedemann 51-4, 69, 73, 78-80; 84, 206-8, 213, 235-243

Optional: Bradley, “Change and Continuity” (pp. 132-153)

**The traffic in slaves**

Friday, September 18: Slave supply and trade: Greece and the Hellenistic states

Readings: Wiedemann 12, 101-3

Monday, September 21: Slave supply and trade: Rome

Readings: Wiedemann 13, 14, 104-125

Optional: Bradley, ‘The Roman Slave Supply’ (pp. 31-56)

Wednesday, September 23: Slave dealers

Readings: Wiedemann 102, 104-125

Friday, September 25: Slave markets and trade centres; the process of selling slaves

Readings: Wiedemann 104-125

Monday, September 28: Costs of slaves; economics of slavery

Readings: Wiedemann 80, 82, 97-100

**Paper outline due in hard copy by the start of class.**

**Slaves and the law**

**a. Greece**

Wednesday, September 30: City states of classical Greece (Athens, Sparta, etc.)

Readings: Wiedemann 3, 15, 21-27, 73-74, 89, 95, 181-184, 197, 205-6

**b. Rome**

Friday, October 2: General background

Readings: Wiedeman 1, 4-5, 8, 11, 14, 76, 191

Monday, October 5: Punishment of slaves

Readings: Wiedemann 7, 68, 77, 177-80, 185-90, 195-98, 203-4, 205-208

Wednesday, October 7: Manumission I

Readings: Wiedemann 6, 9, 10, 21-45, 67, 69-71, 81, 94, 194, 203-204

Friday, October 9: Manumission II

Readings: same as previous class

**Monday, October 12: Thanksgiving. No class**

Wednesday, October 14: **Midterm**

Friday, October 16: Guest lecture and discussion: Professor Leanne Bablitz

Readings: TBA

**Slave labour**

Monday, October 19:Domestic labour

Readings: Wiedemann 55, 72, 75, 81, 83-84, 126-138

Optional: Bradley, “Slave Labour” (pp. 57-80)

Wednesday, October 21: Theatre and entertainment

Readings: Shaw #5-9; extra readings posted on course website

Friday, October 23: Craftspeople and ‘factory’ workers

Readings: Wiedemann 85-6, 90-91

Monday, October 26: Agricultural slaves and miners

Readings: Wiedemann 87-88, 93, 139-157, 191-92, 201-202

Optional: Bradley, “Quality of Life” (pp. 81-106)

Wednesday, October 28: Guest lecture and discussion: Professor Toph Marshall

Readings: TBA

Friday, October 30: Slaves in the military

Readings: Wiedemann 56-7, 62-63

Monday, November 2: Public and temple slaves

Readings: Wiedemann 158-68

Wednesday, November 4: the imperial household and the civil service

Readings: Wiedemann 168-176

**The private lives of slaves**

Friday, November 6: Families and relationships I

Readings: Wiedemann 193; extra readings posted on course website

Optional: Bradley, “Quality of Life” (pp. 81-106)

Monday, November 9: Families and relationships II

Readings: same as previous class

**Wednesday November 11: Remembrance Days. No class**

Friday, November 13: Religion and burial

Readings: Wiedemann 38-9, 49-50

**After slavery**

Monday, November 16: Greek freedmen and women

Readings: readings posted on course website

Wednesday, November 18: Roman freedmen and women

Readings: Wiedemann 46-50, 82, 92, 108, 170; Petronius, *Satyricon* chapters 5-10 (links on course website)

**Slave resistance and revolts**

Friday, November 20: The forms of slave resistance

Readings: Wiedemann 209-210; Shaw 11

Optional: Bradley, “Resisting Slavery” (pp. 107-109)

Monday, November 23: flight and runaways

Readings: Wiedemann 56, 59-61, 197 211-226; Shaw 13-24, 96

Wednesday, November 25: slave revolts in Greece

Readings: Wiedemann 80, Shaw 25; extra readings posted on course website

Friday, November 27: slave revolts in Rome

Readings: Wiedemann 227-230; Shaw 25-61

**Final paper or project due**

Monday, November 30: Spartacus and the last great ancient slave war

Readings: Shaw 62-82

Wednesday, December 2: modern depictions of slavery

Links on course website.

Friday, December 4th: Last day of classes. Review.

**Assessment and other important information:**

**I. Tests and Quizzes**

Quizzes. There will be four quizzes; I will take your top 3 grades from these – or you can choose to miss one without it affecting your grade. They will be pop quizzes focussing on the readings listed above and will take about 5-10 minutes of class time to complete. **Quizzes will be held at the start of class, so make sure you arrive on time.** A pop quiz means you have to be there to take the quiz. There’s no options for make-up quizzes. **There will be no quiz in the first 2 weeks of class to allow everyone to get the books and settle in to term. Quizzes are not cumulative.**

Midterm: The midterm will focus on discussing ancient literary sources from Wiedemann, Shaw and any handout given in class or posted online for a class. More details will be posted at least 2 weeks before the exam.

Final: the final will be open book, although the books are restricted to Wiedemann and Shaw. You may write any notes you need in the books. It will be essay question based and is cumulative.

**As this is the first time this class has been taught, I do not have copies of previous exams.**

**II. Research and Writing.** Paper outline: (5% of final grade). The outline is due at the start of class in hard copy on September 28th. This will be a short (250-400 words) outlines of your aims and prospective arguments in your paper, along with a list of primary and secondary sources you plan on using. I will return it with suggestions and comments; it will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Further details can be found on the assignment sheet for the paper on the course website. **You must hand this in before you can write the paper!**

Paper (30% of final grade): You will write a research paper or complete a research project for this class based on your paper outline. Papers will be 2,500-3,000 words. Further details can be found on the assignment sheet for the paper on the course website. The paper is due at the start of class in hard copy on November 27.

**III Policy regarding missed exams and deadlines:** I do not allow retakes for exams except in cases of **documented** emergencies and illness, so try and get paperwork at the time if you’re in the shape to do this, as it does save a lot of hassle. The penalty for any late assignment is 5% a day.

**IV** **Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences, and will not be tolerated.** They are violations of university regulations and I will be reporting any cases I discover (and they are usually pretty easy to spot, I’m afraid). For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it go to: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism>

**V In class etiquette:** Computers and smart phones are wonderful, wonderful things. However, if you really, really want to text your friends or loved ones for 50 minutes, then you should very much reconsider whether you want to do that in class. You’re getting nothing out of sitting there (even if you think you are) and you’re just annoying other students. The same goes for using your computer for watching videos, playing a first person shooter game (or any game), or a multitude of other fun things you can do on a computer rather than listen about slavery. This is not because I believe I should be the only focus of attention or am a megalomaniac, but because it is **incredibly distracting for the other students, especially when you sit at the front of the class and do this.** There is also the question of whether you really want to be the type of person who, upon hearing about the appalling conditions of slaves in the ancient world, thinks, ‘well, maybe I should check Buzzfeed and do a quiz on what sort of kitten I am.’

**VI Email:** I try to reply to all emails within 24 hours, with exceptions for holidays. Please clearly state why you are emailing, provide your name and class, and do not use text-speak, as I am very old and crotchety and do not understand such things.

**VII Extra credit.** If I ever offer extra credit, it is to the entire class. If you come to me wanting extra credit, you have to have an argument as to why the entire class should receive it. That’s going to have to be a very convincing argument.

**Please note the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus.**