Course Details

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major scholarly approaches and questions of the discipline of Classics and to provide a broad perspective on the discipline as a whole, through the examination of selected texts and objects drawn from material culture. Students will be exposed to the theoretical framework for each subject, while engaging in a close scrutiny of selected examples (texts and artifacts).

The subject areas of the course include:
I. Greek and Roman Archaeology and Material Culture (Wilson)
II. Greek Literature, Philosophy and Oratory (Suksi)
III. Greek and Roman History and Historiography (Meyer)
IV. Latin Literature, Philosophy and Oratory (Pogorzelski)

Course Texts and Resources

The material to be studied will be supplied by the faculty member responsible for each module. The course will be held for three hours each week. Following each module (based upon both Greek and Roman material) there will be an examination. There will be no final cumulative examination for the course.

Instructor

The instructor for this segment is Dr. Alexander Meyer. Dr. Meyer received his PhD from Duke University in 2012 and has been teaching at Western since September of 2012. He teaches primarily Roman History and Latin Literature. Dr. Meyer is also an active field archaeologist. He has been excavating at Vindolanda in Northern England since 2002 and is co-director of the Vindolanda Field School, which takes eight Western undergraduates and a graduate TA for five or six weeks of excavations every summer. His primary research interest is in Latin and Greek epigraphy, especially as they relate to travel and geography in the ancient world. He has also published about clocks, calendars, and perceptions of time in antiquity. He is also active in the interpretation of newly discovered inscriptions and writing tablets from Vindolanda. Dr. Meyer is currently working on articles about veteran settlement on the lower Danube, the epigraphic landscape of travel, and time and space in ethnographic writings.

Contact Details

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Office Hours: Tues. 1:30-2:30, Thurs. 10:30-11:30am
Grade Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on the following components:

1. Active class participation: 30%
2. Final exam: 70%

Course Policies

Attendance and Assigned Readings

Attendance for this course is required. If you need to miss class for any reason, you must contact me in advance to explain that reason. Not only is attendance important for learning the material of the course, but it also allows you to develop your skills in actively engaging in discussion. Students are expected to have read in advance all materials assigned for each class session.

Class Procedure

In the first hour of each class session we will review and build upon the basic fundamentals of Greek and Roman history and historiography. In the second hour we will discuss and engage with a particular sub-discipline of Ancient History. In the third hour of the session we will critically examine one particular issue in ancient history or historiography, assessing the merits of various approaches to the historical evidence.

Course Objectives

The overall goal of this course segment is to introduce students to the tools, resources, and fundamental concepts of, and approaches to, ancient history as practiced in the field of Classics. Students will gain an understanding of key texts, both primary and secondary, that are essential for the study of ancient history.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be familiar with the basic tools and resources for studying ancient history and historiography. Students in the PhD program, or considering applying to the PhD program at Western will have a basic set of resources to help prepare for the Comprehensive Exams. Students will have developed their skills in reading and critiquing scholarly arguments. Students will have learned how to use the major collections of historical sources for studying ancient history.

Important Policies for all Western Courses

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:
Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.**

**UWO ACCESSIBILITY POLICY:** Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: [http://accessibility.uwo.ca/](http://accessibility.uwo.ca/)

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.