

**Department of Classical Studies**  
**Course Outline**  
**CS 2902A/B: DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT ROME**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. K. Olson ([kolson2@uwo.ca](mailto:kolson2@uwo.ca))

**OFFICE:** Lawson Hall 3227 (661-2111 x 84525)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30

**TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS:** MW, 2:30-3:30, SSC 2020

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- T. Parkin and A. Pomeroy (eds) 2007. *Roman Social History: A Sourcebook*. Routledge, 2007 (= **P&P**)
- M. Gibbs, et al. (eds). *Themes in Roman Society and Culture*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2013 (=Gibbs) **\*\*Please pay special attention to the study questions at the end of each assigned chapter in this book, as they will appear on the exams.\*\***

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course will re-create the daily lives of the ancient Romans using secondary readings, ancient literature, and art and archaeology. Topics to be covered include social structure, writing and education, clothing, housing and city life, food and drink, sexuality, slavery, the family, and leisure activities.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- have acquired a knowledge of various kinds of ancient Roman daily activities
- identify both iconography and subject matter, and be able to visually analyze ancient art which depicts such activities
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in ancient art within its specific and larger social/historical context
- to understand the important contribution archaeological evidence makes in examining and reconstructing the social history of ancient Rome
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning ancient social history

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:**

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

- an understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and customs and the construction of daily life activities is a product of time, events and context
- a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as actual historical fact

**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:**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)  
 [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>  
 [under the Medical Documentation heading]] 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.**

**WESTERN 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/>

**WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## GRADES

Term Test #1	30%
Term Test #2	30%
Final Exam	40%

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100%

## NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. Since the tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict.** Plan your schedule ahead of time.
2. Exam questions will be based on lectures as well as assigned readings. Failure to complete the required readings before an exam does not constitute a valid reason for postponing that exam. **Plan your schedule ahead of time.**
3. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for the material they have missed. The instructor and the TA will not review the contents of lectures or repeat announcements for those who arrive late or miss classes. I am also old-fashioned in that I **DO NOT** post lecture notes, images, or study notes of any kind on Sakai. This makes attendance **essential**, as many of the lectures do not come with readings, and also because the images I show in class are testable.
4. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the exams **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on an exam.** Nor can I re-weight exams except in cases of documented medical or personal crisis.

## Course Outline:

### Sept 8

Introduction; Roman social structure

#### Reading:

- P&P page numbers 1-5, 357-358, and passage numbers 1.13-1.21, 1.23-1.34, 1.35-1.50.
- Gibbs 1-68

### Sept 10 The Topography of Rome I

Reading: Gibbs 378-401

### Sept 15 The Topography of Rome II

**Sept 17** Urban Living

**Sept 22** Poverty

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 205-206 and passage numbers 6.1-6.16, 6.19-6.29

**Sept 24** The Roman Atrium House I: structure

**Sept 29** The Roman Atrium House II: decoration

**Oct 1** The Roman economy

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 244-246 and passage numbers 7.19-7.22, 7.23-7.26, 7.30-7.732.
- Gibbs 329-352

**Oct 6** Shopping and Commerce in Ancient Rome

**Oct 8** The Roman Family I

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 43-46 and passage numbers 2.10-2.26, 2.28-2.39
- Gibbs 94-116

**Oct 13: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING.**

**Oct 15** Midterm #1

**Oct 20** The Roman Family II

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 72-77 and passage numbers 3.4-3.69, 3.70-3.71

**Oct 22** Roman Slavery I

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 154-155 and passage numbers 5.1-5.14, 5.16-5.20, 5.23-5.29
- Gibbs 72-93

**Oct 27** Roman Slavery II

**Oct 29** Food and Dining

**Nov 3** Books, Writing, and Education

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 136-137, and passage numbers 4.1- 4.17
- Gibbs 117-136

**Nov 5** Holidays and Leisure Activities

**Nov 10** Travel

**Nov 12** Bathing

**Nov 17 Midterm #2**

**Nov 19** Roman Sexuality

**Reading:**

- Gibbs 164-187

**Nov 24** Gladiators and Chariot-Racing I

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 328-329 and passage numbers 9.1-9.21
- Gibbs 263-284

**Nov 26** Gladiators and Chariot-Racing II

**Dec 1** Crime and Punishment

**Reading:**

- P&P page numbers 292-294 and passage numbers 8.23-8.31
- Gibbs 241-260

**Dec 3** Roman religion

**Reading:**

- Gibbs 189-215