INSTRUCTOR: Dr. K. Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

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

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: MW, 1:30-2:30, UCC 56

REQUIRED TEXTS:


COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The details of Cleopatra’s life story are well-known: the ambitious and intelligent queen’s liaison with Julius Caesar, the birth of their son, and her passionate love-affair and subsequent suicide (via asp) with Roman statesman Mark Antony. Cleopatra’s story is one of death, sex, and power, which may be treated in witty or tragic fashion. This course examines the life and times of Cleopatra, her role in Egyptian and Roman history, and Cleopatra in ancient art and coinage. The Cleopatra we know is the Cleopatra of myth and fantasy as well (a myth which began during her lifetime) and we
will also look at the reception of her image from antiquity to the present in literature, art, and film.

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

- have acquired a knowledge of the life of Cleopatra
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in ancient art within its specific and larger social/historical context
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning Cleopatra
- have acquired a knowledge of the reception of Cleopatra in fiction, art, and film and understand and explain why she is portrayed in a certain way

**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 Cleopatra 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:**
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):](https://studentservices.uwo.ca) 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](http://accessibility.uwo.ca)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. All exams are **multiple-choice.**

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 post **very basic** powerpoints on OWL, but class attendance is still **essential** to understand the details of the lecture.

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.

5. I am happy to speak to you about your grade based on your performance in the class. I am not willing to discuss your grade based on: 1) the grades you usually receive in other courses; 2) the grade you feel you deserved; 3) the grade you need to get into a special programme.

COURSE OUTLINE:

PART ONE: ANCIENT SOURCES

Mon Jan 9

• Introduction

Weds Jan 11

• The Ptolemies; ancient Alexandria
  Reading: Schiff 20-27; Jones 3-30
Mon Jan 16
- The Ptolemies; ancient Alexandria

Weds Jan 18
- Women in the Hellenistic and Roman world

Mon Jan 23
- Cleopatra’s early life
  Reading: Schiff 27–38; Jones 31–45

Weds Jan 25
- Caesar and Cleopatra
  Reading: Schiff 11–20, 38–87; Jones 46–93

Mon Jan 30
- Caesar and Cleopatra
  Reading: Schiff 88–166

Weds Feb 1
- Cleopatra as Isis

Mon Feb 6: **IN CLASS EXAM NO. 1**

Weds Feb 8
- Antony and Cleopatra
  Reading: Schiff 167–199; Jones 94–128

Mon Feb 13
- Antony and Cleopatra; Cleopatra and Herod
  Reading: Schiff 201–236; Jones 129–179

Weds Feb 15
- Antony and Cleopatra
  Reading: Schiff 237–278

**READING BREAK**

Mon Feb 27
- Cleopatra’s death
  Reading: Schiff 279–324; Jones 180–204

Weds Mar 1
- Cleopatra’s death

Mon Mar 6
- Augustan Cleopatras; Cleopatra in later ancient literature

Weds Mar 8
- Cleopatra in ancient art

PART TWO: RECEPTION

Mon Mar 13
- Cleopatra in Arabic; medieval Cleopatras
  Reading: Jones 270–278

Weds Mar 15
- Cleopatra in Renaissance literature and art
  Reading: Jones 223–246
Mon Mar 20 **IN CLASS EXAM No. 2
Weds Mar 22
• 18th/19th century Cleopatras
  **Reading:** Jones 247-50, 255-269
Mon Mar 27
• 18th/19th century Cleopatras
Weds Mar 29
• 20th century Cleopatras; Cleopatra on film 1899-2013
  **Reading:** Jones 279-306
Mon Apr 3
• Cleopatra on film, 1899-2013
Weds Apr 5
• Cleopatra on film, 1899-2013