

CS 9000: Graduate Core Course (2025-26)
Part 1: Greek and Roman History and Historiography
Dr. Alexander Meyer
Thurs. 2:30-5:30pm
Lawson 2205

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major scholarly approaches and questions classical studies 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 close scrutiny of selected examples (texts and artifacts).

The subject areas of the course include:

- I. Greek and Roman History and Historiography (Meyer)
- II. Greek and Roman Archaeology and Material Culture (Canlas)
- III. Greek and Latin Literature (Brown)

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.

SECTION I: GREEK AND ROMAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

This section of the Core Course has three primary goals: 1) To present the basic outline of Greek and Roman history from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity; 2) To introduce some of the major approaches and themes of ancient history in the past several decades; 3) To familiarize students with the disciplinary approaches history and historiography and to categories of evidence that historians use in their investigations. You should leave this course understanding how historical material fits into and is in dialogue with the major political movements of the Greek and Roman worlds. This class includes only a small portion of the historiographical material available from the ancient world and the scholarship about it, but by the end of the course you should understand what evidence is available and how it can be used in each historical period. The approaches and methodologies discussed will introduce you to high-level thinking about history and how it contributes to our understanding of past people and societies.

Course Information

Meeting times: Thursday, 2:30-5:30pm
Location: Lawson Hall 2205 (this section only)
Instructor: Dr. Alexander Meyer

Contact Information

E-mail: alexander.meyer@uwo.ca
Office: Lawson Hall 3224
Office Hours: By appointment or drop-in
Zoom: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/97999760832>

Course Readings

Many of the readings for this course are available online through Weldon Library or through an open access resource. Those readings are marked appropriately. Other readings will be supplied electronically through OWL. Be sure to allow yourself sufficient time to access them. Details will also be provided if you prefer to check these sources out of the library. You can find assignments for each week listed in tabs in the menu on the left side of the Brightspace page.

Assessment

Assessment for this course will be based on **class participation and a final exam**. Significant class participation is expected in graduate school. You should engage with the articles assigned and be ready to discuss your thoughts and ideas about the readings and the subjects we cover. Your contributions should be substantial and not limited to criticism or approval of the material. Every week each student in the class will be asked to respond specifically to one reading, but every student should be prepared to discuss all of the readings.

Participation: 50%

Final exam: 50%

HOW TO USE THIS SYLLABUS

TOPICS: *This is a summary of the topics we will cover each week. There are usually a time period, a theoretical approach and disciplinary issue included each week.*

REQUIRED READINGS: *These are the readings that I expect everyone to have read each week.*

BACKGROUND READING: *You all come to Western with different backgrounds in history and Classics. This column lists suggested reading if you have little or no background in the area under discussion and would like to learn more before class. I will lecture on this material, but the reading will give you more detail, if you would like it.*