

History 4490
The Twilight of Antiquity
Fall Semester, 2019
Location: Social Sciences 3010
Monday and Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:15

Instructor: Brian Swain

Office: Social Sciences 4083

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 – 4:45 or by appointment on MW

Office Phone: 470-578-4762

Email: bswain3@kennesaw.edu

Course Description

This is an upper-level history course on the final phase of the ancient Roman empire and the transition from antiquity to the early Middle Ages (c. 200 - 600 AD). Major topics include: the fall of the western half of the empire, the survival of the East, the rise of new barbarian kingdoms, and the Christianization of the Roman world.

Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will:

1. be able to place the major events of ancient Roman history in the context of world history.
2. be able to identify the major developments of the late Roman period.
3. be able to explain how late ancient Roman culture and thought has influenced the modern world.
4. be able to locate and synthesize primary and secondary sources.
5. develop skills in critical thinking and writing through spoken and written analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Required Books

- Boatwright et al., *A Brief History of the Romans*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press, 2014). ISBN: 978-0199987559
- Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire*, trans. W. Hamilton; introduction A. Wallace-Hadrill (Penguin Classics, 1986). ISBN: 978-0140444063
- Prokopios, *The Secret History, with Related Texts*, trans. A. Kaldellis (Hackett Publishing, 2010). ISBN: 978-1603841801
- All other readings will appear as links in the syllabus or be posted on D2L.

Useful Reference Material

- Jones and Sidwell, *The World of Rome: An Introduction to Roman Culture* (Cambridge, 1997)
- A series of excellent maps: <https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/imladjov/maps>
- The best map in print is the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World* (Princeton)
- Excellent digital reconstructions of the major monuments of Constantinople: <http://www.byzantium1200.com/contents.html>
- A selection of online sources: <http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/asbook09.asp>
- *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (an encyclopedia of classical antiquity)

- *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* (an encyclopedia covering mostly the eastern empire from 330 to 1453)

Recommended reading on the history of the later Roman empire

- A. H. M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire: A Social, Economic, and Administrative Survey, 284-602* (Johns Hopkins)
- D. Potter, *The Roman Empire at Bay, AD 180-395* (Routledge)
- S. Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire, AD 284-641* (Routledge)
- J. Moorhead, *The Roman Empire Divided, 400-700* (Longman)

Attendance Policy

I'm old-school about this. You have to come to class. Woody Allen once said that 80% of life is just showing up. It's weirdly true. Attendance will be taken every class period, and will be factored into your Participation Grade described below. If you miss more than two classes I reserve the right to deduct three points from your *final course grade* for each additional absence. I treat all absences as absences. You get two. Exceptions are granted in cases of hospitalization or similar extreme emergencies. In such cases, you must contact me immediately so we can work out a plan. Students who have more than six absences will receive a failing grade for the semester.

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Phones

They are banned - utterly and completely banned. They will be silenced, put away, and out of sight (all three) while you are in the classroom. Vibrate mode is not silent. If you are using/looking at your phone during class or if your phone makes a noise you will be asked to leave. The sole exception to this rule applies if you are expecting an urgent call. In such a case, inform me of the situation before class starts, then step out of class to take your call.

Electronic Devices Policy

You may take notes on laptops/tablets. If you are engaged in activity on your computer unrelated to this course while in class you will be asked to leave (because it's distracting to those around you). No recording devices allowed except in cases of disability accommodation.

Course Assignments, Grading

5% - participation, enthusiasm

5% - map quiz (Aug. 28)

20% - reading quizzes

15% - paper 1 (multiple due dates)

15% - paper 2 (multiple due dates)

20% - midterm exam (Oct. 14)

20% - final exam (Dec. 11)

****Failure to complete all exams and papers will result in a final course grade of F.****

Papers

Each student will write two papers. Topics and guidelines will be announced later.

Reading Quizzes

There will be around 15 to 25 over the semester, and will be unannounced. 4 questions per quiz, but a score of 3 receives 100% credit; a score of 4 receives extra credit. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Makeup Exams and Late Assignments

Late assignments will lose one full letter grade (10 points) for every day that they are late. Makeup exams can be scheduled in cases of emergency.

Grading Scale

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A - 90-100

B - 80-89

C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - less than 60

I - Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.

Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair's office.

Academic Integrity Statement

1. If you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course and be reported to the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI).

2. Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

Electronic Communications

The University provides all KSU students with an "official" email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

ADA Compliance

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require "reasonable accommodation(s)" to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Department of Student Success

Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu. Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666). Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

(changes to this schedule will be announced in class or by email)

October 9: last day to withdraw without academic penalty

The Romans = Boatwright et al., *A Brief History of the Romans*

Week One

August 19: **Introduction to the World of Late Antiquity**

August 21: **An Empire Already Old**

- [Woolf, 'The Whole Story'](#) (D2L)
- [Woolf, 'Imperial Identities'](#) (D2L)
- [Freeman, 'Running and Defending an Empire'](#) (D2L)
- [3D video fly-through of imperial Rome](#)

Week Two

August 26: **Commodus and the Severan Dynasty**

- [Cassius Dio, Roman History 73.1-10, 14-22](#)
- [Historia Augusta, "Life of Septimius Severus" 1, 5-14, 24](#)
- [Historia Augusta, "Life of Elagabalus" 1-6, 16-7, 30](#)
- [Documents on "the Extension of Citizenship" from the Emperor Caracalla in Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization #106-7](#) (D2L)
- *The Romans*, 243-60

August 28: **The Third-Century Crisis; **MAP QUIZ****

- [Aurelius Victor, On the Emperors \(De Caesaribus\), in Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization #105](#) (D2L)
- ["The Petition of Scaptopara" in Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization #111](#) (D2L)
- ["Monetary Crisis" in Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization #112](#) (D2L)
- *The Romans*, 261-6

Week Three

September 2: NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

September 4: Diocletian and the Tetrarchy

- [Aurelius Victor, On the Emperors \(De Caesaribus\) 39 \(a balanced view\)](#) (D2L)
- [Panegyric of Maximian 10 \(a positive view\)](#) (D2L)
- [Lactantius, How the Persecutors Died 7-8 \(a hostile view\) and 10-15 \(the persecutions begin\)](#)
- [Cairo Isidorus Papyrus, no. 1: see “The New Taxation System” in Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization #122](#) (D2L)
- [Venice Tetrarchs](#)
- *The Romans*, 266-79
- Diocletian’s Price Edict:
 - [abridged preface with prices](#)
 - [video of the Geraki fragment](#)

Week Four

September 9: Constantine, part 1

- [Galerius’ edict of toleration \(311 AD\) and the “Edict of Milan” \(313 AD\)](#)
- Constantine’s vision of Apollo: [Panegyric of Constantine 6.21-22 \(310 AD\)](#) (D2L)
- Constantine’s Christian dream: [Lactantius, How the Persecutors Died 44](#)
- Constantine’s Vision of the Cross: [Eusebios, Life of Constantine 1.27-32](#)
- *The Romans*, 281-5

September 11: Constantine, part 2

- A Christian view of the foundation of Constantinople: [Sozomen, Ecclesiastical History 2.3](#)
- [A pagan view of the foundation of Constantinople and of Constantine’s reign: Zosimus, New History 2.29-39](#) (D2L)
- [Nicene Creed](#)
- [Several of Constantine’s laws regarding Christianity](#)

Week Five

September 16: Paganism in the Roman Empire

- [Burkert, Greek Religion, 55-64](#) (D2L)
- [Hopkins, A World Full of Gods, 7-45 \(time travel to ancient Pompeii\)](#) (D2L)

September 18: Pagans and Christians

- [P. Brown, ‘Christianization and Religious Conflict’](#) (D2L)
- [Porphyry, Against the Christians, attack on Christian apocalyptic hopes](#) (D2L)
- *The Romans*, 298-301
- [Optional reading: Freeman, on early Christians](#) (D2L)

Week Six

September 23: **Julian, Philosopher-King**

- [Gregory, on Julian, in *A History of Byzantium*, 68-75](#) (D2L)
- [Louvre statue](#). See also this [cameo](#).
- A Christian view of Julian: [Socrates Scholasticus, *Ecclesiastical History* 3.1](#) (chapter 1 only)
- [Julian, Rescript on Christian Teachers](#)
- [Julian, Letter to a Priest](#)
- Ammianus Marcellinus 20.4, 8-9; 21.1-2, 15-16; 22.1-2, 4-5, 10, 12-14; 23.1; 25.1-4
 - hint: 20.4 = Book 20, chapter 4 (pgs. 186-90)

September 25: wiggle-room day

Week Seven

September 30: **Ammianus Marcellinus and Late Roman History Writing**

- Ammianus Marcellinus:
 - Introduction, pgs. 13-35
 - Sections 14.6; 15.8-9, 12; 16.1, 5, 10-12

October 2: **Ammianus, Back by Popular Demand**

- Ammianus Marcellinus:
 - 18.4-10; 19.1-8

Week Eight

October 7: **The Barbarian World Before 376 AD**

- [Documents on barbarians in Lewis and Reinhold, *Roman Civilization*](#) (D2L)
- [M. Todd, *Everyday Life of the Barbarians*, 3-36, 65-7, 77-89, 96-103](#) (D2L)
- [James, on barbarian soldiers serving in Roman armies, 161-66](#) (D2L)

October 9: Review Session

- Come with questions. I will not have a lesson plan.

Week Nine

October 14: **MIDTERM EXAM**

October 16: Paper Meetings

Week Ten

October 21: Paper Meetings

October 23: **The Gothic Wars**

- Ammianus Marcellinus, Book 31
- *The Romans*, 291-95
- [Heather, *The Goths*, 130-51](#) (D2L)

Week Eleven

October 28: Theodosius, Christianity, and the Church, part 1

- [Gregory, on Theodosius, in *A History of Byzantium*](#) (D2L)
- Hippodrome in Constantinople: [video](#) and [reconstructions](#)
- [Zosimus, *New History* 4.26-33, 35-7, 43-7, 53-5, 57-9](#) (D2L)
- [Altar of Victory, Lewis and Reinhold #186 and Anti-Pagan Legislation #187 609-16](#) (D2L)
- [Libanius, *To Theodosius on Behalf of the Temples*](#) (read at least half the text)

October 30: Theodosius, Christianity, and the Church, part 2

- [Cameron, 'Church and State', 66-84](#) (D2L)
- The massacre at Thessalonike:
 - [Sozomen, *Ecclesiastical History* 7.25](#) (chapter 25)
 - [Ambrose, *Letter 51, To Theodosius*](#)

Week Twelve

November 4: The Decline of the Western Empire

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 108-21](#) (D2L)

November 6: The Fall of the Western Empire

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 121-27](#) (D2L)
- [Priscus' account of the embassy to Attila](#) (449 AD)

Week Thirteen

November 11: The Barbarian 'Successor' Kingdoms, part 1

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 206-26](#) (D2L)
- Sidonius Apollinaris:
 - [Letter 1.2, on a civilized barbarians and a barbaric Roman](#)
 - [Letter 5.5, to Syagrius on his mastering of the Burgundian language](#) (scroll down)

November 13: The Barbarian 'Successor' Kingdoms, part 2

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 226-41](#) (D2L)
- [Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks* 2.27-30, 37-8](#) (scroll down, don't click Book II)
- Cassiodorus, *Variae*:
 - [1.27](#) (D2L)
 - [2.16](#) (D2L)
 - [3.17](#) (D2L)

Week Fourteen

November 18: The East in the Fifth Century and the Ambitions of Justinian

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 125-43](#) (D2L)
- *The Romans*, 311-15
- Prokopios, *The Secret History*: xxix-xxv; lv-lix; 3-27

November 20: **The Tyranny of Justinian**

- [Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire, 143-64*](#) (D2L)
- [Procopius, *Wars 4.9: the triumph of Belisarius over the Vandal King Gelimer*](#) (D2L)
- Prokopios, *The Secret History*, 28-86

Week Fifteen

November 25 and 27: **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**

Week Sixteen

December 2: **The Secret History**

- Prokopios, *The Secret History*, 87-132

December 4: **Late Antiquity: Decline or Transformation?**

- Cameron, 'The 'Long' Late Antiquity: A Late Twentieth-Century Model,' in T. P. Wiseman, ed., *Classics in Progress: Essays on Ancient Greece and Rome* (British Academy 2002) 165-191. (D2L)
- W. Liebeschuetz, 'Late Antiquity, The Rejection of 'Decline,' and Multiculturalism,' in *Atti dell'Accademia romanistica constantiniana: XIV Convegno internazionale in memoria di Guglielmo Nocera* (Naples 2003) 639-652. (D2L)

Week Seventeen

December 9: Review Session

- Come with questions. I will not have a lesson plan.

****FINAL EXAM****

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 – 8:00