

CLEOPATRA (01:190:318)
(3 credits) | online | Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Kristina Chew

EMAIL: kristina.chew@rutgers.edu

PHONE: 908.295.8257

OFFICE HOURS (via Sakai chat): Wednesday, 1-3pm EST, and by appointment.

COURSE SAKAI SITE: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/9108b585-ee77-4bec-ad7b-76049e45ce92>

INSTRUCTOR'S VIDEO LECTURES: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrr8I2xJ8Bx98ZkbAoXic7g>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Power, sex, politics, murder, romance, suicide: The facts of Cleopatra's life could be the stuff of many a viral social media storm. While Cleopatra VII, the legendary last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt, lived over two millennia ago, she remains as much a subject of fascination as ever. This online course on Cleopatra will help students investigate and evaluate the many materials on the internet about one of the most well-known women in the world's history. We will read texts in translation by ancient authors as well as by Chaucer, Shakespeare and Shaw and watch films including Joseph Mankiewicz's 1963 epic *Cleopatra* starring Elizabeth Taylor. Study of these materials will aid us in understanding Cleopatra's complicated legacy in the study of gender, the role of women in antiquity and recent controversies regarding the Egyptian queen's race.

Cleopatra (190:318) is the web-based version of a Classics course on this topic.

TEXTS (REQUIRED)

Stacy Schiff. *Cleopatra. A Life*. Back Bay Books, reprint edition, 2011. (Ebook version also available.)

Prudence J. Jones. *Cleopatra. A Sourcebook*. Oklahoma University Press, 2006.

Books are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore at Ferren Mall on Albany Street (732.246.8448) and may also be ordered online.

COURSE LEARNING POINTS

By the end of this course, students who complete all the requirements will be able to

- display knowledge of the historical period in which Cleopatra lived;
- analyze and interpret ancient texts about Cleopatra and ancient artefacts (sculptures, coins, etc.) representing her;
- understand the limitations of ancient sources (Greek, Roman, Egyptian) for studying the historical Cleopatra;
- analyze, interpret and critique later textual and filmic representations of Cleopatra;
- display knowledge of the various "Cleopatra traditions" (including controversies about her race) that have arisen;
- learn about the lives and status of women and gender roles in the ancient world.

To better understand what studying Classics entails, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the core learning goals that motivate the teaching of Classics, listed on the department website: <http://classics.rutgers.edu/>, and to contact the Classics undergraduate director with any questions.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

We will view read approximately 100 pages per week and watch the assigned films (available as DVDs in the Media Center or viewable online). For each week, the tasks assigned will be:

1. read the assigned texts from ancient and later authors and/or contemporary historical and other sources;
2. watch the accompanying video recorded by the instructor;
3. watch the film (if one is assigned);
4. work with assigned groups to analyze and interpret the week's readings and/or film by writing at least two discussion forum posts;
5. take a short answer quiz on the readings and any other assigned materials;
6. write a short essay (2 pages) assessing the readings and any other assigned materials.

Due dates for written assignments will be noted on our class Sakai site and will be the same every week.

GRADES

Each of the following components will determine part of your final grade, which will be calculated out of 1000 points or 100%:

<i>Weekly quizzes</i>	150 points/15%	<i>Research Essay</i>	200 points/20%
<i>Participation in Online Forums</i>	300 points/30%	<i>Final Exam</i>	150 points/15%
<i>Short Essays</i>	200 points/20%		

Grades are non-negotiable. Extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion, and is not guaranteed. Points will be turned into letter grades according to the following scheme:

A 900-1000	B 800-864	C 700-764
B+ 865-899	C+ 765-799	D 665-699

ASSIGNMENTS

PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE FORUMS

For every week's class, there will be a topic to be answered in the class forums. You are to write two posts, one post that is your own response to the topic and a second post in response to another student's response. In both posts, you are to refer to the week's assigned readings, film, and/or other assigned materials. Further information on group selection and expectations will be covered in the Introduction section of our course website.

QUIZZES

Each week, there will be a quiz about the assigned readings, film, and/or other materials. The quizzes will will unlock at 6:00 A.M. on Friday and close at 11:59 P.M. on Saturday.

ESSAYS

Both the weekly short essays and the long research essay are to be submitted to the instructor via the Sakai site.

- The weekly short essays are to be 2 pages long and will ask you to analyze and interpret the week's readings, film and/or other assigned materials.
- The long essay (8-10 page) will ask you to develop, research and present a topic about the various "Cleopatra traditions" that have arisen from the time of her death up till today.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam will ask you to identify and explain the significance of short passages from the readings, short clips from films and selected artefacts representing Cleopatra. The exam will be an in-person, proctored final on campus; the date and time will be announced when they are set.

DEADLINE POLICIES ARE FINAL AND NON-NEGOTIABLE

You must complete every component to receive a passing grade in this course.

Please note that while there will be a deadline for an assignment almost every day of the week, students are free to complete and submit an assignment any time up until the deadline.

If you anticipate a problem with an upcoming deadline, the best practice will be to work ahead (and consult your instructor if necessary). That said, emergencies do occur: In the event of any emergency inhibiting your progress through the course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the stealing, purchasing, or copying of someone else's ideas, writing, or other original work and using them as one's own. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and all instances will be reported to the Office of the Academic Dean.

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are not tolerated under any circumstances. Students who cheat or submit plagiarized work are liable to receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course at the discretion of the instructor.

Make sure you are aware of the University's regulations concerning academic dishonesty and plagiarism. You are responsible for adhering to the guidelines in the current Academic Integrity Policy: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

All quizzes and exams for this online course are to be taken without any study aids whatsoever. This includes your textbook, notes, input from other students, or the Internet. Cheating in any form will result in a failing grade for this course.

More information about Rutgers' policies about academic integrity:

- Academic integrity at Rutgers: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>
- Resources for students: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>
- The Camden Plagiarism Tutorial (*Interactive*): <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>
- Tips about how to take notes to avoid unintentional/accidental plagiarism: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

ADDITIONAL NOTICES

If you are a university athlete, please let me know within the first week of class.

• Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Under Federal Law, the University is required to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students with documentable disabilities, in legally defined categories. If you have a documentable disability and/or require accommodations in this course, please have your College coordinator contact me by the end of the second week of classes.

• Student-Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

SCHEDULE

Below is a brief schedule of classes noting the readings, films and the due dates for the research essay and final exam. This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Film Assignment Essay Due Dates
1	1/19 – 1/22	The Legacy of Alexander the Great and the Ptolemies	Charles Freeman, “Alexander of Macedon and the Expansion of the Greek World”; “The Hellenistic World” (from <i>Egypt, Greece and Rome</i> , 1996)
2	1/25 – 1/29	The City of Alexandria	Schiff, <i>Cleopatra. A Life</i> Poems by Constantine Cavafy (“Envoys From Alexandria,” “Alexandrian Kings,” et al.
3	2/1 – 2/5	Cleopatra and Egypt	Schiff, <i>Cleopatra. A Life</i> Documentary on Cleopatra’s life and Alexandria
4	2/8– 2/12	Cleopatra and the Late Roman Republic	Excerpts from Appian, <i>The Civil Wars</i> Excerpts from Dio Cassius
5	2/15 – 2/19	Cleopatra, Antony and Actium	Plutarch, <i>Life of Antony</i>
6	2/22 – 2/26	Cleopatra in Roman Poetry	Excerpts from Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> Horace, <i>Odes</i>
7	2/29 – 3/4	Cleopatra, Epic Heroine	Excerpts from Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> <i>Cleopatra</i> , dir. Joseph L. Mankiewicz (1963)
8	3/7 – 3/11	Cleopatra and the Snake	Schiff, <i>Cleopatra. A Life</i> Apuleius, <i>The Golden Ass</i> , Book 11
	3/12 – 3/20	<i>Spring Break</i>	
9	3/21 – 3/25	“Cleopatra Traditions”	Giovanni Boccaccio. <i>Concerning Famous Women</i> (ca. 1355-59) Geoffrey Chaucer. <i>Legend of Good Women</i> (ca. 1380)
10	3/28 – 4/1	Cleopatra and the Early Modern Era	William Shakespeare. <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> (ca. 1607) John Dryden. <i>All for Love</i> (1678) Episodes from HBO’s <i>Rome</i> (2005-2007)
11	4/4 – 4/8	Cleopatra and the 19th Century	Alexander Pushkin. Egyptian Nights “Cleopatra” (1825) Algernon Swinburne, “Cleopatra” (1866) G. Bernard Shaw. <i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i> (1898)
12	4/11 – 4/15	The Black Cleopatra	Excerpts from Martin Bernal, <i>Black Athen</i> (1987) and from Mary Lefkowitz, <i>Not Out of Africa</i> (1997)

13	4/18 – 4/22	Cleopatra as Female, Proto-feminist Icon	Excerpts from Socrates Scholasticus and John of Nikiu <i>Agora</i> , dir. Alejandro Amenabar (2009).
14	4/25 – 4/29	Review	
15	5/2	Research Essay	Research Essay due 5/2
16	TBD	Final Exam	