Greek and Roman Slavery (2005)  
(History 510:300/Classics 190:300)

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Meetings: MTh 10:20-11:40, LCB 110, LC  
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I. Required Texts:

K. R. Bradley, Slavery and Society at Rome (Cambridge 1994) = Bradley
M. I. Finley, Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology (Penguin, London 1980) = Finley
or Finley, Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology (Wiener, Princeton 1998) = Finley
T. Wiedemann, Greek and Roman Slavery (London 1981) = Wiedemann

II. Grading and Requirements:

A. Mid-Term: 30% (October 20)  
Term Paper: 30% (due December 1)  
Final Exam: 40% (December 21, 8.00-11:00 AM)

B. The Mid-Term (Oct. 20) is an in-class exam that will test material to that date. It will contain objective and essay-style questions on the material covered in the course up to its date and will be administered in the classroom during the normal specified class period of the day. Only those with medical or decanal justification may be excused.

C. The research paper will cover an aspect of the history of ancient servile conditions, with specific references to our readings, and lectures. The topic is to be chosen by October 20 and may be discussed with the instructor in an individual meeting. A list of suggestions will be circulated. The paper is due on at the beginning of class on Dec. 1. It should be no less than 7 and no more than 10 double-spaced type-written pages in length. The format of the paper should follow an accepted scholarly format and model (e.g., the MLA Style Sheet).

D. Although emphasis in the final will fall on the material treated in the second half of the course, this exam will be cumulative and comprehensive, testing the whole range of course subject matter. Its format will be announced in advance.

III. Course Description:

This course will offer an overview of ancient Greek and Roman slavery as a political, legal, economic, social, and cultural phenomenon. According to one expert, M. I. Finley, although human societies have exploited slaves as far back as records exist, there have only been five genuine slave societies (that is, societies in which slavery constituted the dominant mode of production and slaves represented a numerically significant portion of the population) in human history. Two of these were the principal societies of classical antiquity, those of classical Greece and of the Roman Republic and Empire. (The other three all belonged to the New World: in the southern United States, the Caribbean, and Brazil.) Understanding the place of slavery in classical antiquity is thus essential not only for understanding the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome but also for comprehending slavery as a human institution. The course will address the following topics: definitions of slavery (including chattel slavery, eventually
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the predominant form of servitude); the sources and numbers of slaves; the slave mode of production and the significance of slavery in the ancient economy; domestic and rural slaves; the treatment of slaves; resistance to slavery and slave revolts; manumission and the position of ex-slaves in Greco-Roman society; the social position of slaves; the family life of slaves; slavery and the law (civil and natural); slaves in literature; ancient and new world slavery compared.

As a rule, one meeting in each week will be devoted to a lecture that will impart basic information about aspects of slavery. In the second meeting, we will examine together basic documents for understanding slavery in the ancient world. This material will be provided by the sourcebook of Wiedemann (and possibly by handouts).

IV. Course outline

September 1: Syllabus

Week 1 (Sept. 8): Introduction to course; definitions of slavery; explanation of basic terms. Slavery & alienation. Modern theories of ancient slavery: Garlan 1-23 or Fisher 1-9; Wiedemann pp. 1-13, #1-2, 80; Bradley 13-20; Finley¹ pp. 9-29 = Finley² 79-96.

Week 2 (Sept. 12 & 15): The origins of slavery: chattel slavery & other forms of servitude (“serfdom”); debt bondage & slavery: Garlan 24-53, 85-106 or Fisher 10-21; Wiedemann #3, #12-13; #15-21; Finley¹ pp. 29-52 = Finley² 96-100.

Week 3 (Sept. 19 & 22): The moral/cultural/psychological status(es) of slaves: slavery as social death. The means of enslavement; numbers of slaves: Wiedemann #51-79; Finley¹ pp. 52-66 = Finley² 120-34. Reread 80; Garlan 106-118 or Fisher 47-57. There will be no meeting on September 29.

Week 4 (Sept. 26): The employment of slaves: economic / non-economic (political), urban / rural, domestic / commercial: Wiedemann #81-100; Finley¹ pp. 67-92; Garlan 106-118 or Fisher 47-57.

Week 5 (Oct. 3 & 6): Slaves as members of the household and slaves as agricultural workers. Slaves as public employees and officials. Slaves as business agents. Luxury slaves: Garlan 60-73 or Fisher 37-47; Wiedemann #126-63; Bradley 21-45.

Week 6 (Oct. 10 & 13): The treatment of slaves: individual inclination, social stricture, legal sanction: Wiedemann #177-208; Finley¹ pp. 93-113 = Finley² 161-81; Bradley 113-37; Garlan 145-76 or Fisher 58-66, 70-78.

Week 7 (Oct. 17 & 20): Sources of slaves: Garlan 53-60 or Fisher 34-37; Wiedemann #101-25. October 20: Mid-term

Week 8 (Oct. 24 & 27): Resistance to slavery and slave revolts: Garlan 176-200 or Fisher 79-85; Wiedemann #209-234; Finley¹ pp. 113-16 = Finley² 181-84.

Week 9 (Oct. 31 & Nov. 3): Manumission: techniques and conditions; freedmen; other forms of partial or conditional servitude: Garlan 73-84 or Fisher 67-70; Bradley 81-112; Wiedemann #22-50.


Week 11 (Nov. 14 & 17) The ancient law of slavery: theory and practice: Wiedemann #4-14; Garlan 119-38, 201-8 or Fisher 92-98.
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Week 12 (Nov. 21): Slavery & morality/natural law; Stoic and Christian views on slaves and slavery: Wiedemann #235-43; Finley¹ 120-22 = Finley² 188-90.

Week 13 (Nov. 28 & Dec. 1): Late antique slavery and the decline of slavery in late antiquity: Finley¹ 123-49 = Finley² 191-217.


Catch-up & review: Dec. 12

FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 21, 8.00-11:00 AM

Recommended Books (on reserve, Alexander Library Reserve)

R. H. Barrow, *Slavery in the Roman Empire* (HT863.B31928a)
W. W. Buckland, *The Roman Law of Slavery* (Cambridge 1908) (KBD.B924R)
- - - - - *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece* (London 1981) (HC37.56198)
- - - - - , ed., *Slavery in Classical Antiquity* (Cambridge 1960) (HT863.F5)
  DF261.L2H45 2003
  HT863.T46 2003

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http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.htm

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