

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*¹ (Penguin, London 1980) = Finley¹
or Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology*² (Wiener, Princeton 1998) = Finley²
- N.R.E. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (Bristol Classical Press 1993) = Fisher
- Y. Garlan, *Slavery in Ancient Greece*, tr. By J. Lloyd (Ithaca. 1988) = Garlan
- 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

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: Garland 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: Garland 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; Garland 138-45 **or** Fisher 86-98, 98-108.

Week 4 (Sept. 26): The employment of slaves: economic / non-economic (political), urban / rural, domestic / commercial: Wiedemann #81-100; Finley¹ pp. 67-92; Garland 106-118 **or** Fisher 47-57. **There will be no meeting on September 29.**

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: Garland 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; Garland 145-76 **or** Fisher 58-66, 70-78.

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

Week 8 (Oct. 24 & 27): Resistance to slavery and slave revolts: Garland 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: Garland 73-84 **or** Fisher 67-70; Bradley 81-112; Wiedemann #22-50.

Week 10 (Nov. 7 & 10): The family life of slaves. Parents, spouses, and children. Roman slave *familiae*; Slaves in literature/subversion of stereotypes: Bradley 47-80; Wiedemann #165-76. Reread #78-79. Finley¹ pp. 116-20 = Finley² 184-99.

Week 11 (Nov. 14 & 17) The ancient law of slavery: theory and practice: Wiedemann #4-14; Garland 119-38, 201-8 **or** Fisher 92-98.

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.

Week 14 (Dec. 5 & 8): Slavery ancient and modern. Slavery in the New World.

Catch-up & review: Dec. 12

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

Recommended Books (on reserve, Alexander Library Reserve)

M. M. Austin & P. Vidal-Naquet, *Economic and Social History of Ancient Greece* (HC37.A8813.1977b)

R. H. Barrow, *Slavery in the Roman Empire* (HT863.B31928a)

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Rebellion in the Roman World, 140 B.C.– 70 B.C.* (Bloomington 1989) (HT1191.B73 1989)

W. W. Buckland, *The Roman Law of Slavery* (Cambridge 1908) (KBD.B924R)

M.I. Finley, *The Ancient Economy*, 2nd ed. (Berkeley 1985) (HC31.F5)

----- *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece* (London 1981) (HC37.56198)

-----, ed., *Slavery in Classical Antiquity* (Cambridge 1960) (HT863.F5)

W. Fitzgerald, *Slavery and the Roman Literary Imagination* (Cambridge 2000) (PA6030.S6F58 2000)

Peter Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* (Cambridge 1996) (HT861.G37 1996)

K. Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves* (Cambridge 1978) (HT866.H66)

N. Luraghi & S.E. Alcock, editors, *Helots and their masters in Laconia and Messenia : histories, ideologies, structures* (Center for Hellenic Studies; Cambridge MA HUP 2003) DF261.L2H45 2003

O. Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death. A Comparative Study* (Cambridge Ma. 1982) (HT871.P37)

G. E. M. de Ste. Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World from the Archaic Age to the Arab Conquests* (London 1981) (DF91.D4)

F. Hugh Thompson, *The archaeology of Greek and Roman Slavery* (London, Duckworth 2003) HT863.T46 2003

J. Vogt, *Ancient Slavery and the Ideal of Man* (Cambridge, MA. 1975) (HT863.V613)

A. Watson, *Roman Slave Law* (Baltimore 1987) (KJA2198.W38 1987)

W. L. Westermann, *The Slave Systems of Greek and Roman Antiquity* (Philadelphia 1955)
(HT863.W4)

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<http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/policy.htm>