Course Description

Who was the “real” Cleopatra? She is one of the most famous women in world history, but the many different conflicting images of her and stories about her life make the “real” Cleopatra an elusive figure. In this course, we will be interested both in the “real” Cleopatra and in the many constructions of Cleopatra in literature, art, and film through the ages. Thus, we will attempt to dispel myths about her life as well as to examine those myths for what they can say about the cultures that created them.

Course Website

The course website is accessible through the WebCT homepage. Go to https://webct.rutgers.edu and follow the instructions for logging in as a student. You will need to have a NetID and password to access the website.

Required Texts (available at Rutgers Ferren Mall Bookstore)


Note: selected readings will also be assigned which are available on the internet

Grading and Evaluation

1. Midterm (Feb 27) 40%
2. Final (Tues May 9, 12-3 pm) 60%

Note: I will be strict about providing makeup exams only when there has been a documented emergency situation or other similar type of valid excuse (eg, religious holiday, sickness)
Tentative Schedule (note: readings are due on the day they are listed)

**Week 1**
- Wed Jan 18: Introduction

**PART ONE: The Historical Cleopatra**

**Week 2**
- Mon Jan 23: The Hellenistic World and the Ptolemies  
  Read Grant pp 3-29; Kleiner 1-15
- Wed Jan 25: The Roman World of the Late Republic  
  Read Kleiner pp 29-67

**Week 3**
- Mon Jan 30: Cleopatra’s First 21 Years  
  Read Grant: 30-58; Kleiner 16-28
- Wed Feb 1: Cleopatra and Caesar: Egypt  
  Read Grant: 61-82

**Week 4**
- Mon Feb 6: Cleopatra and Caesar: Rome and after Caesar’s Death  
  Read Grant 83-105
- Wed Feb 8: Cleopatra and Antony: Summoned and Abandoned by Antony  
  Read Grant 109-134

**Week 5**
- Mon Feb 13: Cleopatra and Antony: Cleopatra Revives her Kingdom  
  Read Grant 135-160
- Wed Feb 15: Cleopatra and Antony: Queen of Kings  
  Read Grant 161-181

**Week 6**
- Mon Feb 20: Cleopatra against Rome: Enemy and Actium  
  Read Grant 185-215
- Wed Feb 22: Cleopatra against Rome: Death  
  Read Grant 216-238

**Week 7**
- Mon Feb 27: MIDTERM
PART TWO: Cleopatra in the Literature and Art of Republican Rome

Wed Mar 1  Cleopatra and Augustan Poetry: Horace and Augustan patronage
            Read Horace Epode 9 and Ode 1.37 (internet)

Week 8
Mon Mar 6  Cleopatra and Augustan Poetry: Propertius and elegy
            Read Propertius 2.1, 2.15, 2.16, 3.11, 4.6 (internet)
Wed Mar 8  Cleopatra and Augustan Poetry: Virgil’s Aeneid
            Read Book 4, 8.626-731 (internet)

Week 9
Mon Mar 13  SPRING BREAK
Wed Mar 15  SPRING BREAK

Week 10
Mon Mar 20  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Cleopatra’s Building Projects
            Read Kleiner 68-101
Wed Mar 22  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Propaganda Wars
            Read Kleiner 102-134

Week 11
Mon Mar 27  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Propaganda Wars
            Read Kleiner 135-162
Wed Mar 29  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Her Influence on Rome
            Read Kleiner 163-199

Week 12
Mon Apr 3  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Her Influence on Rome
            Read Kleiner 200-241
Wed Apr 5  Cleopatra and Roman Art: Her Influence on Rome
            Read Kleiner 242-282

PART THREE: Cleopatra through the Ages

Week 13
Mon Apr 10  Roman Empire: Plutarch’s Life of Antony
            Read Life of Antony (internet)
Wed Apr 12:  Roman Empire
            Read selections from Lucan, Appian, Suetonius, Dio Cassius (internet)

Week 14
Mon Apr 17  Elizabethan England: Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra
            Read Antony and Cleopatra (internet)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 19</td>
<td>Elizabethan England: Shakespeare’s <em>Antony and Cleopatra</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 15</strong></td>
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<td>Mon Apr 24</td>
<td>Victorian England: Shaw’s <em>Caesar and Cleopatra</em> Read <em>Caesar and Cleopatra</em> (internet)</td>
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<td>Wed Apr 26</td>
<td>Victorian England: Shaw’s <em>Caesar and Cleopatra</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 16</strong></td>
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<td>Mon May 1</td>
<td>Modern Cleopatras: Hollywood and Beyond</td>
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