

Greek and Roman Slavery (2017)/Draft Syllabus
(History 510:300/Classic 190:300)

Dr. Thomas J. Figueira
History, Van Dyck Hall, CAC
Hist. Off., Van Dyck 202, 848-932-8118
Meetings: MTH 10:55 AM-12:15, HCK-214
E-mail: figueira@rci.rutgers.edu

I. Required Texts:

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

II. Grading and Requirements:

A. Mid-Term: 30% (XXXXX)
   Term Paper: 35% (XXXXX)
   Final Exam: 35% (XXXXX)

B. The Mid-Term (XXXXX) 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. Its
   format will be announced in advance. Only those with medical excuse or other 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 XXXXX 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 XXX. 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. Only those with medical
   excuse or other decanal justification may be excused.

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
true 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
Greek & Roman Slavery: Draft

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 supplemental material).

IV. Course outline

Week 1: Introduction and Syllabus

Week 2: 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; Finley$^1$ pp. 9-29 = Finley$^2$ 79-96.

Week 3: 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; Finley$^1$ pp. 29-52 = Finley$^2$ 96-100. Read Jensen/Figueira “Chattel Slavery” (SAKAI).

Week 4: The moral/cultural/psychological status(es) of slaves: slavery as social death. The means of enslavement; numbers of slaves: Wiedemann #51-79; Finley$^1$ pp. 52-66 = Finley$^2$ 120-34. Reread 80; Garlan 138-45 or Fisher 86-98, 98-108.

Week 5: The employment of slaves: economic / non-economic (political), urban / rural, domestic / commercial: Wiedemann #81-100; Finley$^1$ pp. 67-92; Garlan 106-118 or Fisher 47-57.

Week 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; read Nikophon’s law (on line).

Week 7: The treatment of slaves: individual inclination, social stricture, legal sanction: Wiedemann #177-208; Finley$^1$ pp. 93-113 = Finley$^2$ 161-81; Bradley 113-37; Garlan 145-76 or Fisher 58-66, 70-78.

Week 8: Sources of slaves: Garlan 53-60 or Fisher 34-37; Wiedemann #101-25. Paper Topics must be chosen now or before. XXXX: Mid-term

Week 9: Resistance to slavery and slave revolts: Garlan 176-200 or Fisher 79-85; Wiedemann #209-234; Finley$^1$ pp. 113-16 = Finley$^2$ 181-84.
Week 10: 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; read Cena Trimalchionis (on line).


Week 12: The ancient law of slavery: theory and practice: Wiedemann #4-14; Garlan 119-38, 201-8 or Fisher 92-98.

Week 13: Slavery & morality/natural law; Stoic and Christian views on slaves and slavery: Wiedemann #235-43; Finley¹ 120-22 = Finley² 188-90.

Week 14: Late antique slavery and the decline of slavery in late antiquity: Finley¹ 123-49 = Finley² 191-217. Papers are due on December 2.


FINAL EXAMINATION: XXXXX

Please note the statement on plagiarism of the Department of History:
http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.htm

Papers may be monitored through turnitin.com.

This class is conducted under the rules established in the Department of History, Policy on Mutual Responsibilities and Classroom Etiquette, which may be found at:
http://history.rutgers.edu.undergrad/policy.htm

Students are not allowed to record the lectures without written permission from T. Figueira.

Students are expected to maintain good standing through attendance.

Students are expected to maintain working RU email accounts in order the use the course SAKAI site.
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)


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


