

Professor: Peter Hunt
TA: Rebecca Gaskill
Classics/History 4071
Hlms. 201; MWF 12:00-12:50

Ancient Social History: Greek and Roman Slavery

Course Description: Slavery was so central to the economy, society, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome that they are included with Brazil, the Caribbean, and the *ante bellum* United States South among the short list of true slave societies known to history. In this class, we'll examine the institution of classical slavery itself as well as its relationship to the rest of Greek and Roman civilization. Given the centrality of the institution of slavery and its connections to other aspects of Greek and Roman civilization, we will end up learning a great deal about Greek and Roman political, social, and cultural history as well as about slavery.

We will treat large-scale topics such as the sources of slaves, slaves in the economy, and the political effects of slavery. We will also try to understand the life experiences of individual slaves in the context of their culture, family life, and manumission. We'll consider the full spectrum of resistance to slavery from day-to-day non-compliance to sabotage and theft to some of the largest and most violent slave revolts in history. The justifications of slavery as well as the rare attested criticisms of the institution will provide another fascinating topic. The course will conclude by considering various explanations of the decline in the use of slaves in the late antique world and the legacy of ancient slavery in the modern world.

Comparisons between Greek and Roman slavery will inform many of our investigations—and occasionally we will bring in contrasts or parallels with the better-known slave societies of the New World. Throughout the course we will be faced with the challenge of understanding Greek and Roman slavery on the basis of our scattered and biased evidence—very little of it coming from slaves themselves—and will engage with the controversies that have surrounded this topic.

Required Course Books:

Keith Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome*
N. R. E. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece*
Niall McKeown, *The Invention of Ancient Slavery?*
Thomas Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman Slavery*

N.B.: When the assignment involves individual numbered passages from Wiedemann, this will be indicated as follows: GARS #.

Some articles and chapters are on electronic reserve (Classics 4071). These will be identified as such (ER). The course password is Klio.

Grading and Requirements:

Clicker Scores 15%
Two Tests 40%
Final Exam 30%
Three Short Papers (1-3 pages) 15%

Office Hours:

Peter Hunt will hold office hours in HUMN 380 on Monday from 2-3 PM and on Wednesday from 10-11 AM. These will be conducted on a first-come, first served basis; no appointment is necessary. You can also call me at 303-492-6447. I check my e-mail most days. Rebecca Gaskill will hold her office hours in HUMN 380 on Thursday from 4-5 PM.

Assignments:

January 11-Introduction to the course.

January 13-What is Slavery?

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Definitions and Problems: Chattel Slaves, Serfs, and the Concept of a Slave Society," 1-9

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "Confronting Slavery at Rome," 1-9

January 15-Historical Context: Greece

M. I. Finley, "Was Greek civilization based on slave labour?" in *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece*, 97-115. ER.

January 20-Historical Context: Rome

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "The Slave Society at Rome," 10-30

January 22-Sources of slaves: possibilities and general considerations

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Sources of Slaves," 106-121

January 25-Sources of slaves: war and import to classical Greece

Yvon Garlan, "War, Piracy, and Slavery in the Greek World" in *Classical Slavery*, ed. Moses I. Finley, 9-27. ER

January 27-Sources of slaves: the rise and fall of Roman slavery?

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "The Roman Slave Supply," 31-56

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "A Scientific Approach to Ancient Slavery?" 124-140

January 29-Slaves in the economy: productivity and status

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "Slave Labour," 57-80

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Status Symbol or Economic Investment," 78-105

February 1-Slaves in the economy: agricultural labor in classical Greece

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Slaves in Classical Athens: Numbers, Origins and Economic Functions," 34-57

February 3-Slaves in the economy: helots and Finley's spectrum of statuses

Finley, "Between slavery and freedom," in *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece*, ER.

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Debt-Bondage and Serfdom," 36-44. Skip #16.

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Community Slaves or Serfs: the Spartan Helots and Others," 22-33

February 5-Slaves in the economy: rural and urban slaves of the Roman elite

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Domestic Slaves and Rural Slaves," 122-153. Skip # 141-3.

February 8-Political Effects of Slavery: introduction

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "Introduction" and "The Changing Face of Roman Slavery," 7-29

February 10-Political Effects of Slavery: slavery and the egalitarian ethos at Athens

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "The Development of Chattel Slavery: From Homer to Solon," 10-21

Wiedemann, *GARS* #16

February 12-Political Effects of Slavery: Slaves in Greek warfare

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "The Greeks Do It (a bit) Better: The Opportunities of Silence," 141-158

Peter Hunt, *Slaves, Warfare, and Ideology in the Greek Historians* 102-120. ER

February 15- Political Effects of Slavery: slavery in the late Roman Republic

Keith Hopkins, "Conquerors and slaves: the impact of conquering an empire on the political economy of Italy," in *Conquerors and Slaves* I, 1-37. ER
GARS #141-143

February 17- Political Effects of Slavery: slavery and the fall of the Republic

Keith Hopkins, "Conquerors and slaves: the impact of conquering an empire on the political economy of Italy," in *Conquerors and Slaves* II, 37-74. ER

February 19-Test One

February 22-Slave Culture: Trojan slaves in classical Athens

Ian Morris, "Remaining invisible: the archaeology of the excluded in classical Athens." ER

February 24-Slave Culture: Greek intellectuals as Roman slaves

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "The Treatment of Slaves," 167-187
GARS #73, 108, 133, 240

February 26-Slave Families: gender ratios, paternalism, and family life

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "Quality of Life," 81-106

March 1-Slave Families: slaves as sex and love objects

Debra Hamel, *Trying Neaira* 3-43. ER
Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . # 5.19, 22, 26, 33, 47, 156, 194-5

March 3-Slave Families: slave families on Roman epitaphs

Wiedemann, #50.
Susan Treggiari, "Family life among the staff of the Volusii," *TAPA* 105 (1975) 393-401. ER

March 5-Manumission: definition, results, and causes

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Manumission," 45-60, skip #23-5
Start Demosthenes, *For Phormio*. ER.

March 8-Manumission: Pasion and his family at Athens

Demosthenes, *For Phormio*. ER

March 10-Manumission: Manumission records at Hellenistic Delphi

Keith Hopkins, "Between slavery and freedom: on freeing slaves at Delphi". ER
Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . #23-25

March 12-Manumission: the great imperial freedmen

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Slaves owned by the state," 154-166
#65-71, 79
TBA

March 15-Resistance and Accommodation: treatment of slaves

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Slaves in Classical Athens: Treatment and Hopes for Freedom," 58-78
McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "Ancient Slavery and Modern Geography," 30-51
Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . #147-9, 157

March 17-Resistance and Accommodation: loyal and clever slaves in New Comedy

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "I too want to tell a story . . . "; Some modern literary scholars and ancient slavery," 97-123

March 19-Test Two

Spring Break

March 29-Resistance and Accommodation: low-level resistance, runaways, and bandits

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "Resisting Slavery," 107-131

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "Keith Bradley: Passionate about Slavery" 77-96

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Resistance," 188-197

March 31-Rebellion: contributory factors

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Resistance, Flight and Revolt," 79-85

Paul Cartledge, "Rebels and Sambos in ancient Greece," in *Spartan Reflections*, 127-152. ER

April 2-Rebellion: Slave Wars

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . page 84-86

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Rebellion," 198-223

April 5-Rebellion: Spartacus and his legacy

Theresa Urbainczyk, *Spartacus* 92-130. ER

April 7- Justifying Slavery: ethnocentrism, militarism, and chance

Peter Hunt, "Slavery in Greek literary culture," forthcoming in the *Cambridge World History of Slavery*.

ER

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "Moral Inferiors," 61-77, skip #65-71

April 9- Guest Lecturer, Professor Eckart Schütrumpf on Aristotle's theory of natural slavery

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Justifications: Barbarians and Natural Slaves," 86-98

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . #2

April 12- Justifying Slavery: Stoicism, Christianity, and "true" slavery

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . "The True Freedom of the Spirit," 224-251 and #213, 219

De Ste. Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World*, 418-425. ER

April 14-Critics of Slavery: introduction

Peter Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* 53-86. ER

April 16-Critics of Slavery: slaves in utopia and drama

Joseph Vogt, "Slavery in Greek Utopias." ER

Stephen Daitz, "Concepts of freedom and slavery in Euripides Hecuba." ER

April 19-Critics of Slavery: the amelioration of slavery in Roman law

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "Slavery and Progress," 154-173

Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman* . . . #4-14, 226.

April 21-Decline and Legacy: dating and explaining the decline of slavery

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "Struggling with Class: Shtaerman, Trofimova and a Marxist View of Roman Slavery," 52-76

April 23-Decline and Legacy: the ideal of freedom and other intellectual legacies

Fisher, *Slavery* . . . "Associated Ideologies: Work, Leisure, and Sex," 99-108

April 26-Decline and Legacy: slavery becomes a moral problem
David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture*, 3-28. ER.

April 28-Review Session

McKeown, *The Invention* . . . "Conclusion," 159-164

Bradley, *Slavery* . . . "To be a slave," 174-182

April 30-Reading day, no class**May 1st Final Exam: 7:30-10:00 PM****University Policies:****H1N1:**

Students who are ill with flu-like symptoms should NOT come to class or have close contact with other students (e.g., study groups). They should NOT return to class until 24 hours after fever has abated. Faculty should follow the same guidelines.

--If H1N1 is suspected, do not visit your health care provider unless you are experiencing flu-like symptoms AND you have an underlying health condition (pregnancy, asthma, diabetes, undergoing chemotherapy, etc.), OR your condition worsens.

--To prevent the spread of illness, health authorities are discouraging visits to health facilities to request a doctor's note to document absence. The campus needs to operate within this parameter which is a major departure from our standard practice.

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

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Learning Environment

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist

individuals
regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at
<http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Academic Dishonesty

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>