

Slavery and Rebellion in Ancient Rome: Spartacus in Legend and History

Spartacus and his army of slaves resisted the power of the Roman legions for two years and became the stuff of legend. After a brief introduction to Roman history, this seminar will explore slavery in ancient Rome in its psychological, social, and economic dimensions. Against that background, the discussion will analyze the causes of Spartacus' rebellion. Finally, the course will consider how the traumatic end of the rebellion--the crucifixion of 6,000 slaves along the Appian Way--gave rise to a legend popularized in Stanley Kubrick's 1960 film.

Reading list:

Keith Bradley, *Society and Slavery at Rome* (Cambridge UP)

Brent Shaw, *Spartacus and the Slave Wars* (Bedford)

Mary T. Boatwright et al., *A Brief History of Rome*

Spartacus DVD