

GS/HIST 5033 3.0 SLAVERY IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

Course Director: Professor Jeremy Trevett

COURSE OUTLINE

This course explores the phenomenon of slavery in Greek and Roman antiquity. Three main areas are covered: ancient attitudes to and theories of slavery from Aristotle to Augustine, the role of slaves in the ancient economy, and the position of slaves in Greek and Roman society. Throughout the course we examine both the continuities within the Greco-Roman world and the ways in which beliefs and practices varied from place to place and over time.

It meets on Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m., in Farquharson Life Sciences 045.

Grade Breakdown

Review of scholarly article or book chapter: 25%

Major paper: 50%

Participation: 25%

Books

The following books will be used extensively, and you may wish to buy or otherwise get hold of a copy:

T. E. J. Wiedemann, *Greek and Roman Slavery: A Sourcebook* (1981). Abbreviated as GRS

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994)

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993)

P. Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* (1996)

Outline of Topics

5 September	Introductory meeting
12 September	The Origins of Greek slavery
19 September	The Demography of Greco-Roman slavery and the slave trade
26 September	Slavery and the law
3 October	The Ideology of slavery
10 October	The Economic role of slaves
24 October	The Economic role of slaves (continued)
31 October	The Treatment of slaves
7 November	The Manumission of slaves
14 November	Slave resistance and revolt
21 November	Justifications and criticisms of slavery
28 November	Early Christianity and Slavery

12 September The Origins of Greek slavery

How far back can slavery be traced in Greek history? What forms did it take? How far can we tell the precise status of agricultural workers and domestic servants in the Homeric poems?

How far can we understand and explain the abolition of debt-bondage and slavery for debt in Athens? How and when did chattel slavery develop? Are these two phenomena connected? Was Moses Finley right to write of 'The advance, hand in hand, of freedom *and* slavery'?

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 10-21

M. I. Finley, *The World of Odysseus*² (1977) ch. 3

M. I. Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology* (1980) 67-92

Y. Garlan, *Slavery in Ancient Greece* (1988) 24-40

T. Rihll, 'The Origin and establishment of ancient Greek slavery' in M. L. Bush (ed.), *Serfdom and Slavery: Studies in Legal Bondage* (1996) 89-111

P. B. Manville, *The Origins of Citizenship in Ancient Athens* (1990) 93-156

19 September The Demography of Greco-Roman Slavery and the Slave Trade

How many slaves were there in Greece and Rome? How were they acquired, and from where?

GRS ch. 6

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 34-47

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 31-56

W. Scheidel, 'Quantifying the Sources of Slaves in the Early Roman Empire' *Journal of Roman Studies* 87 (1997) 156-169 (**JSTOR**)

W. V. Harris, 'Demography, geography and the sources of Roman slaves' *Journal of Roman Studies* 89 (1999) 62-75 (**JSTOR**)

J. Bodel, 'Caveat emptor: towards a study of Roman slave-traders' *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 18 (2005) 181-195

M. I. Finley, 'Aulus Kapreilius Timotheus, Slave Trader', in his *Aspects of Antiquity* (1972) 154-166

26 September Slavery and the law

How were slaves treated under Athenian and Roman law? What were the rights and duties of slaves and masters?

GRS ch. 1

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 58-65

S. C. Todd, *The Shape of Athenian Law* (1993) 184-94

N. Fisher, 'Hybris, status and slavery' in A. Powell (ed.), *The Greek World* (1997) 44-84

M. Gagarin, 'The Torture of slaves in Athenian law' *Classical Philology* 91 (1996) 1-18

A. Watson, *Roman Slave Law* (1987)

J. A. Crook, *Law and Life of Rome, 90 BC-AD 212* (1967) index s.v. 'slaves, slavery'

3 October The Ideology of slavery

How did Greco-Roman slavery relate to Greek and Roman beliefs about citizenship, freedom, gender, and ethnicity? (How far) did ideology and reality conflict?

GRS ch. 4

O. Patterson, *Freedom* vol. 1: Freedom in the Making of Western Culture (1991) 64-105

P. A. Cartledge, *The Greeks: A Portrait of Self and Others* (1993) ch. 6, esp. pp. 138-51

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 99-108

R. Just, 'Freedom, slavery and the female psyche' in P. A. Cartledge and F. D. Harvey (ed.), *Crux: Essays in Greek History* (1985) 169-88

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Roman Society* (1994) 10-30

A. Watson, 'Roman slave law and Romanist ideology' *Phoenix* 37 (1983) 53-65

K. R. Bradley, 'Animalizing the slave: the truth of fiction' *Journal of Roman Studies* 90 (2000) 110-125

10 and 24 October The Economic role of slaves

Was slave-ownership always a matter of economic calculation? In what ways did slaves contribute to the ancient economy? What was the relationship between free and servile labour? Could Athens' democracy have functioned without slave labour? What impact did the influx of slaves in the 2nd century BC have on the economy of Italy?

GRS chs 5 and 7

M. H. Jameson, 'Agriculture and slavery in classical Athens' *Classical Journal* 73 (1977/8) 122-45

R. Osborne, 'The Economics and politics of slavery at Athens' in A. Powell (ed.), *The Greek World* (1997) 27-43

M. I. Finley, 'Was Greek civilization based on slave labour?' *Historia* 8 (1959) 145-64 = his *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece* (1981) 97-115

C. G. Starr, 'An overdose of slavery' *Journal of Economic History* 18 (1958) 17-32

K. Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves* (1978) 1-132

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 57-80

D. W. Rathbone, 'The slave mode of production in Italy' *Journal of Roman Studies* 73 (1983) 160-8

W. Scheidel, 'The comparative economics of slavery in the Greco-Roman world' in Princeton/Stanford Working Papers

(<http://www.princeton.edu/~pswpc/papers/papers.html>)

Relevant to this topic is the heated debate over R. Fogel and S. Engerman, *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery*. There is a useful review article online at:

<http://eh.net/bookreviews/library/weiss>.

31 October The Treatment of slaves in the Greco-Roman world

How were Greek and Roman slaves treated? To what degree was the treatment of slaves a matter of calculation on the part of their masters?

GRS ch. 9

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 65-78

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 81-106

J. Vogt, *Ancient Slavery and the Ideal of Man* (1974) 1-25, 103-145

M. I. Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology* (1980) 93-122

K. R. Bradley, *Slaves and Masters in the Roman Empire: A Study in Social Control* (1987)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass has much to say about the treatment of slaves: see esp. chs 2-4 on the harshness of plantation life; ch. 6 on Baltimore.

7 November The Manumission of slaves

By what means could slaves be given their freedom? How widespread was manumission? What was the status (juridical, social, economic) of freedmen? How did Greek and Roman manumission practices differ, and why?

GRS 28-50, 69-71

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 67-70

K. Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves* (1978) 133-171 (manumission documents from Hellenistic Delphi)

R. Zelnick-Abramovitz, *Not Wholly Free: The Concept of Manumission and the Status of Manumitted Slaves in the Ancient Greek World* (2005). See Bryn Mawr Classical Review at: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2005/2005-11-21.html>

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 154-173

O. Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study* (1982) 209-296

Susan Treggiari, *Roman Freedmen during the Late Republic* (1969) chs 1-3

T. E. J. Wiedemann 'The Regularity of manumission at Rome' *Classical Quarterly* 35 (1985) 162-75

14 November Slave resistance and revolt

In what ways did slaves resist their masters? Under what circumstances did resistance turn into revolt? Why were revolts concentrated in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.? What did slaves hope to achieve by revolting?

GRS chs 10 and 11, docs. 80.265c-266f (pp.84-6) and 80.272e-f (p.90).

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 79-85

P. Cartledge, 'Rebels and Sambos in Classical Greece: a comparative view' in his *Spartan Reflections* (2001) 127-152

P. Green, 'The First Sicilian slave war' *Past and Present* 20 (1961) 10-29

J. Vogt, *Ancient Slavery and the Ideal of Man* (1975) 39-92

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 107-131

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

21 November Justifications and criticisms of slavery

How far were the Greeks and Romans under pressure to justify slavery to themselves? How did they seek to do so?

N. Fisher, *Slavery in Classical Greece* (1993) 86-98

W. K. C. Guthrie, *The Sophists* (1971) ch. 6, esp. 155-60

P. Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* (1996) Introduction and Parts I and II

G. Vlastos, 'Slavery in Plato's thought' in M. I. Finley (ed.), *Slavery in Classical Antiquity* (1968) ch. 7 = G. Vlastos, *Platonic Studies* (1973) 147-63

P. A. Brunt, 'Aristotle and slavery' in his *Studies in Greek History and Thought* (1993) ch. 11

28 November Slavery and Christianity

What attitudes did early Christians hold towards slavery? Did Christians differ from pagans in their attitudes towards slaves? Was there a discrepancy between their beliefs and their practices? How did the institution of slavery change in the Later Roman Empire?

GRS 52, 54, 213, 241-2

'Slavery' in *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (1992)

G. E. M. de Ste Croix, 'Early Christian attitudes to property and slavery' in D. Baker (ed.), *Studies in Church History* (1975) 1-38

D. B. Martin, *Slavery as Salvation: the Metaphor of Slavery in Pauline Christianity* (1990)

P. Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* (1996) chs 11-14

J. A. Glancy, *Slavery in Early Christianity* (2006)

K. R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (1994) 132-153

C. R. Whittaker, 'Circe's pigs: from slavery to serfdom in the Later Roman Empire' *Slavery and Abolition* 8 (1987) 88-122