

**History 4485**  
**Late Antique Rome**  
**Spring 2007**

Instructor: Dr. Justin Stephens  
Lecture: M W 12:20-1:40 Pafford 204  
Office: TLC 3224  
Office Hours: 9-10 and 2-3 M W F and by appointment  
Email: jstephen@westga.edu

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course examines the late Roman Empire c. 180 CE-600 CE. The focus of this course is the long transformation of the Roman Empire traditionally known as the "Decline and Fall" of Rome. We will begin the course with an examination of traditional views of the "fall" of Rome including the role that Christianity played in this process. We will then examine more recent views of this period that question the notion of a "fall" of Rome and instead argue that this Late Antique period should be viewed as a distinct one, rather than one of transition or decline. Ultimately, each of you will be required to formulate your own thoughts on Late Antique Rome and its fall or lack thereof.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who complete this course will:

- Have the ability to demonstrate both verbally and in writing a basic knowledge of Late Antique Roman history.
- Have a better understanding of Roman philosophical, religious, political, and cultural heritages that have helped to shape the modern western world.
- Learn the fundamental methods of historical inquiry.
- Have improved writing and critical thinking skills.
- Have an understanding of major historiographical trends in Roman history

**Course Requirements:**

1. In addition to attending lectures, it is critical that you carefully read all assigned readings. There will be discussion of these readings throughout the semester during lecture.
2. There will be two papers, which are due at the start of lecture on the dates listed in the lecture schedule. The first paper is a 3 page response paper to Rodney Stark's *Rise of Christianity*. The second paper is a 15 page research paper due on the last day of class.
3. There will be a midterm and final exam. Both exams will consist of short essays and at least one long essay. For both the identifications and essays, you will need to demonstrate knowledge of material from lectures and primary source readings.

**Grading:**

Class Participation: 10%  
First Paper: 10 %  
Midterm: 20%

Research Paper: 30%  
Final: 30%

**Miscellaneous:**

There will be no make-up exams.  
Late papers will not be accepted.  
There will be no extra-credit.  
Grade information will not be given out via email.

**Cheating:**

Cheating of any kind will result in an "F" for the course and further disciplinary action may be taken.

**Readings:**

Celsus, *On the True Doctrine*, ed. and trans. Hoffman  
Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*  
Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity*  
Primary source selections on electronic reserve at the library

**Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments for Lecture:**

Week 1:

Jan 8 (M): Introduction  
Jan 10 (W): The Roman World

Week 2:

Jan 15 (M): No Class  
Jan 17 (W): The Roman World (Paper Topics Due)

Week 3:

Jan 22 (M): Gibbon on the Fall  
Jan 24(W): A New Paradigm? (Research Questions Due)

Week 4:

Jan 22 (M): The World of the Five Good Emperors  
Jan 24 (W): Christians and Romans

Week 5:

Jan 29 (M): Can Romans be Christians? (Discussion Celsus)  
Jan 31 (W): Justin Martyr and Origen

Week 6:

Feb 12 (M): Stark Christians (Discussion Rodney Stark)  
Feb 14 (W): TBA (Stark Paper due)

Week 7:

Feb 19 (M): Commodus and the Crisis of the Third Century  
Feb 21 (W): The Dominate

Week 8:

Feb 26 (M): First Exam  
Feb 28 (W): Constantine Converts

Week 9:

Mar 5 (M): Arians and Emperors (Bibliography due)  
Mar 7 (W): Julian the Apostate

Week 10:

Mar 12 (M): Theodosius  
Mar 14 (F): The Riot of the Statues (Outline Due)

Week 11:

NO CLASS

Week 12:

Mar 26 (M): Ambrose and Theodosius (Revised Outline and Bibliography; Thesis Statement Due)  
Mar 28 (W): Monks and Holy Men

Week 13:

Apr 2 (M): The End of the West  
Apr 4 (W): Justinian

Week 14:

Apr 9 (M): TBA  
Apr 11 (W): TBA

Week 15:

Apr 16 (M): TBA  
Apr 18 (W): TBA

Week 16:

Apr. 23 (M): TBA (Research Paper Due)

Final Exam:

Wednesday, May 2, 11 am-1 pm.