

Winter 2005, Public Policy 2232, MWF 9-9:50

Instructor: Christopher M. Chinn

Office: Dodd 240B

Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:45 or by appointment

Contact: If you would like to make an appointment or would like help with the class, feel free to get in touch with me by any of the following methods. I will also post most course materials on my web site, listed below. If you are missing any documents handed out in class, please consult the web site.

- E-mail: chinn@humnet.ucla.edu
- My office phone number: (310) 825-1867
- My mail box: Dodd 100
- Web site: <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~cchinnhr>

Course Objective: The goal of this course is for the student to gain a historical appreciation of and critical insight into the various large-scale entertainments enjoyed by many inhabitants of the Ancient Roman World. In particular we will examine gladiatorial contests, animal hunts, chariot races, athletic competitions, and theatrical presentations. Our overriding concern will be to understand the *meaning* of these spectacles.

Course Plan: This course is structured around reading ancient historical authorities in translation, accompanied by factual and interpretive lectures. Student participation will be encouraged during lectures. We will take a look at the evidence for the various spectacle entertainments in turn, in each case examining the origins of these spectacles and their development over time. After we have examined the ancient sources, we will apply some modern critical perspectives to them in an attempt to get at the meaning of the spectacles.

Texts: We will be using the following texts in this class. In addition there will be several readings on reserve in the College Library. See schedule for details.

- Course Reader, will be available at Course Reader Material (1137 Westwood Blvd)
- Köhne, Eckart and Cornelia Ewigleben, editors. *Gladiators and Caesars: the power of spectacle in ancient Rome*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2000.

Course Requirements: The following components will be used to determine grades in this class. Ultimately your grade will be based upon my evaluation of your progress toward meeting the course objective, as seen in your work. See the schedule on the next page for due dates.

- **Midterm Exam (30%):** The midterm exam will take place on Friday February 18 and will test your knowledge of the facts of the texts under consideration, and your ability to produce meaningful interpretations of these same texts. The midterm will contain short answer and essay sections.
- **Writing Assignments (30%):** You will be expected to produce three short (2-4 page) writing assignments on specific topics (each worth 10% of your grade). These papers will be largely interpretive essays, though outside research will not be discouraged.
- **Final Exam (40%):** The final examination will be comprehensive, covering all the material from the readings and lectures. As with the midterm there will be short answer and essay sections. The final will take place on Friday, March 18, from 11:30-2:30 PM.

No late work will be accepted, and all exams must be taken on the date scheduled. Letter grades will be assigned according to UCLA standards. Feel free to ask me at any point in the quarter for an update on your grade.

Schedule of Readings and Topics: The following table indicates the dates on which we will discuss the various texts we will be using in this class. Please have readings prepared before these dates.

CR=Course Reader

GC=*Gladiators and Caesars*

Week 1: Starting points and the politics of spectacle

- January 10: Introduction: how ancient historians work
 January 12: **READ:** CR pp. 1-17 “Basic statements regarding games”
 January 14 **READ:** GC Chapter 1 “Bread and Circuses: the politics of entertainment”

Week 2: Politics of spectacle, continued

- January 17: NO CLASS
 January 19: **READ:** CR pp. 54-71 “Politics and the games”; CR pp. 72-79 “Augustus *Res Gestae*”
 January 21: **READ:** Reading TBA (on reserve)

Week 3: Chariot racing

- January 24: Viewing of a selection of *Ben Hur*; **Written Response 1 due**
 January 26: **READ:** GC Chapter 4, “On the starting line with Ben Hur: Chariot-racing in the Circus Maximus”
 January 28: **READ:** Selection from Cameron’s *Circus Factions* (on reserve)

Week 4: The Roman theater and drama

- January 31: **READ:** GC Chapter 5, “Give us your applause: the world of the theater”
 February 2: **READ:** CR pp. 80-95 “Roman drama and the theater”; CR pp. 96-98 “A Roman mime play”
 February 4: Viewing of a Roman drama in modern performance

Week 5: The Roman theater and drama, continued

- February 7: **READ:** CR pp. 99-127 “Plautus *Aulularia*”
 February 9: **READ:** CR pp. 128-156 “Terence *Hecyra*”
 February 11: **READ:** Mikhail Bakhtin, “Introduction,” pp. 1-58 in *Rabelais and his World* (on reserve)

Week 6: The Roman theater and drama, continued

- February 14: **READ:** Edward Said, “Overlapping territories, intertwined histories,” pp. 3-61 in *Culture and Imperialism* (on reserve)
 February 16: Review

MIDTERM EXAM: FEBRUARY 18

Week 7: The gladiatorial competitions

February 21 NO CLASS

February 23: **READ:** GC chapter 2 “*Familia gladiatoria*: The heroes of the amphitheater”

February 25: **READ:** CR pp. 157-187 “Ancient opinions on gladiators”

Week 8: The gladiatorial competitions, continued

February 28: Viewing of selections from *Spartacus* and *Gladiator*; **Written Response 2 due**

March 2: **READ:** Hannah Arendt *On Violence* pp. 59-87 (on reserve)

March 4 **READ:** GC Chapter 6 “What these women love is the sword: the performers and their audiences”

Week 9: Ancient views on the spectacles

March 7: **READ:** CR pp. 18-31 “General impressions of the games and spectacles”

March 9: **READ** CR pp. 188-197 “Perpetua’s experience of the arena”

March 11: **READ:** Michel Foucault, “The body of the condemned,” pp. 3-31 in *Discipline and Punish* (on reserve)

Week 10: Ancient views on the spectacles, continued

March 14: **READ:** CR pp. 32-53 “Tertullian’s letter on the spectacles”

March 16: Review; **Written Response 3 due**

Schedule of Assignments: Below are dates for the papers and exams assigned during the quarter.

Midterm Exam: February 18

Written Response 1: January 24

Written Response 2: February 28

Written Response 3: March 16

Final Exam: March 18, 11:30-2:30

All essays should provide a strong, meaningful thesis that is well supported by argumentation and evidence. Do not, in other words, write a bunch of observations and group them into paragraphs. Above all, I want to see a coherent and provocative argument in all your written work. Topics will be announced during the course of the term.

Bibliography: Below are listed some modern works on subjects pertaining to this class. I will put some of these on reserve.

- Balsdon, J. P. V. D. 1969. *Life and leisure in ancient Rome*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Beacham, Richard C. 1999. *Spectacle entertainments of early imperial Rome*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Cameron, Alan. 1976. *Circus factions: blues and greens at Rome and Byzantium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Duckworth, George. 1994. *The nature of Roman comedy : a study in popular entertainment* , 2nd edition with a foreword and bibliographical appendix by Richard Hunter. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Futrell, Alison. 1997. *Blood in the arena: the spectacle of Roman power*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Potter, David and D. S. Mattingly, editors. 1999. *Life, death, and entertainment in the Roman Empire*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Scullard, H. H. 1981. *Festivals and ceremonies of the Roman Republic*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Wiedemann, Thomas. 1992. *Emperors and gladiators*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Wistrand, Magnus. 1992. *Entertainment and violence in Ancient Rome: the attitudes of Roman writers of the first century A.D.* Göteborg, Sweden : Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis.

Reference Works: Below are listed some useful reference works to be used in conjunction with our readings of the ancient authorities.

- Badian, Ernst. 1969. *Roman imperialism in the late Republic*. New York: Blackwell.
- Broughton, T. R. S. 1952. *The magistrates of the Roman Republic*, 2 volumes. New York: APA.
- Brunt, Peter. 1971. *Social conflicts in the Roman Republic*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Conte, Gian Biagio. 1994. *Latin Literature: A History*. Translated by Joseph B. Solodow. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Hornblower, Simon and Anthony Spawforth, editors. 1996. *The Oxford classical dictionary*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lewis Naphtali and Meyer Reinhold, editors. 1990. *Roman civilization: selected readings*, 3rd edition, 2 volumes. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Scullard, H. H. 1970. *From the Gracchi to Nero*, 3rd edition. London: Methuen.