

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:						
HY 4049 LATE ANTIQUE CULTURES		UK LEVEL: 6 UK CREDITS: 15 US CREDITS: 3/0/3				
(Updated Fall 2025)						
PREREQUISITES:						
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Exploration of the political and cultural transformation of the ancient Mediterranean world from the third to the seventh centuries CE; transition of the Later Roman Empire into the Byzantine Empire in the east and the Germanic kingdoms in the west; the rise and expansion of Christianity and the pervasive impact of “Christianisation” across societies and cultures; the transformation of urban landscapes and lives across the Mediterranean basin along with and the development of new communities and identities.					
RATIONALE:	Late Antiquity is one of the most significant periods in European history. It is a fascinating and vibrant age that saw the classical world transform into the early Medieval world. During this period, Roman power collapsed in Western Europe, but survived and remained powerful in the Balkans and the Near East. Christianity became the dominant religion in the European and Mediterranean world, and the socio-economic and cultural framework of the early Medieval world was developed.					
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, students should be able to:  1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the political, social and cultural developments that transformed the ancient world into the early medieval world. 2. Critically evaluate the continuity and change across cultures in the European and Mediterranean worlds in the Late Antique period. 3. Engage critically with textual sources and material evidence from Late Antiquity. 4. Apply argumentation skills when approaching questions and problems in Late Antique history through discussion, debate, and written analysis.					
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lectures and class discussions on secondary literature and on primary sources</li><li>• Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to students.</li><li>• Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for further study as well as for preparation for the exams.</li><li>• Use of the Blackboard site to further support communication, by posting lecture notes, assignment instruction, timely announcements, formative quizzes and online submission of assignments.</li></ul>					
ASSESSMENT:	<b>Summative:</b> <table><tr><td>1<sup>st</sup> assessment: Oral presentations</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>2<sup>nd</sup> assessment: Term Paper (3,500 words)</td><td>60%</td></tr></table>		1 <sup>st</sup> assessment: Oral presentations	10%	2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment: Term Paper (3,500 words)	60%
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Final assessment: Final examination (comprehensive with essay questions and responses to gobbets)</td><td>30%</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Active participation in seminar classes</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Term paper proposal and annotated bibliography</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> summative assessment tests LO 1  The 2<sup>nd</sup> summative assessment tests LOs 2, 3, 4  The final summative assessment tests LOs 1, 2, 3</p> <p><i>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</i></p>	Final assessment: Final examination (comprehensive with essay questions and responses to gobbets)	30%	Active participation in seminar classes	0%	Term paper proposal and annotated bibliography	0%
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Term paper proposal and annotated bibliography	0%						
<p><b>INDICATIVE READING:</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIRED READINGS:</b></p> <p>Mitchell, Stephen. <i>A History of the Later Roman Empire, AD 284-641</i>. Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007</p> <p>Brown, Peter. <i>The World of Late Antiquity, AD 150-750</i>. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971</p> <p>Maas, Michael, ed., <i>Readings in Late Antiquity: A Sourcebook</i>. London &amp; New York: Routledge, 2000</p> <p>Johnson, S (ed.), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READINGS:</b></p> <p>Brown, P. <i>Society and the Holy in Late Antiquity</i>, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982</p> <p>Brown, P., <i>Power and Persuasion in Late Antiquity. Towards a Christian Empire</i>, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992</p> <p>Cameron, A. <i>The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity, AD 395-600</i>, London; New York: Routledge, 1993.</p> <p>Ward-Perkins, B. <i>The Fall of Rome and the End of Civilization</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005</p> <p>Rousseau, P. (ed.), <i>A Companion to Late Antiquity</i>, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009</p> <p>Bowden, W., Gutterich, A., &amp; Machado, C. <i>Social and Political Life in Late Antiquity</i>, Leiden &amp; Boston: Brill, 2006</p> <p>Burns, T.S. &amp; Eadie, J. W. <i>Urban Centers and Rural Contexts in Late Antiquity</i>, East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2001</p> <p>Bowersock, G. W. <i>Empires in Collision in Late Antiquity</i>, Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2012</p> <p>Bowersock, G. W., Brown, P. &amp; Grabar, O. <i>Late Antiquity. A Guide to the</i></p>						

	<p><i>Post-Classical World</i>. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999</p> <p>Gwyn, D.M., Bangert, S. &amp; Lavan, L., <i>Religious Diversity in Late Antiquity</i>, Leiden: Brill, 2010</p> <p>Dunn, M. <i>The Emergence of Monasticism: From the Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages</i>, Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2003</p> <p>Lenski, N. E., <i>The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Constantine</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006</p> <p>Maas, M (ed.), <i>The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005</p> <p>Rich J. (ed.), <i>The City in Late Antiquity</i>, London &amp; New York : Routledge, 1992</p> <p>MacMullen, R. <i>Christianity and Paganism in the Fourth to Eighth Centuries</i>, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997</p> <p>Kalleres, D.S., <i>City of Demons: Violence, Ritual, and Christian Power in Late Antiquity</i>, Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2015</p> <p>Kingsley, S. &amp; Dexker, M, <i>Economy and Exchange in the East Mediterranean during Late Antiquity</i>, Havertown: Oxbow Books, 2015</p> <p>Rohrbacher, D., <i>The Historians of Late Antiquity</i>, London &amp; New York: Routledge, 2002</p> <p>Rapp, C. <i>Holy Bishops in Late Antiquity: The Nature of Christian Leadership in an Age of Transition</i>, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005</p> <p>Schott, J.M., <i>Christianity, Empire, and the Making of Religion in Late Antiquity</i>, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008</p> <p>Hernandez, de la Fuente, D.A. Pietro, S.T., &amp; Heredero, A. <i>New Perspectives on Late Antiquity in the Eastern Roman Empire</i>, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014</p> <p>Testa, R. L., <i>Late Antiquity in Contemporary Debate</i>, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017</p>
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate intelligently in lectures and seminars with the instructor and fellow students</li> <li>2. Produce clear, well-structured and intelligent pieces of work</li> </ol>
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	MSOffice; Blackboard CMS
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<p><a href="http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/MUHLBERGER/ORB/LT-ATEST.HTM">http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/MUHLBERGER/ORB/LT-ATEST.HTM</a> Late Antiquity in the Mediterranean: A guide to online resources with historical overview, introductory essays and specialized studies, visual tours and useful links</p>

	<p><a href="https://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/c.php?g=69275&amp;p=448560">https://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/c.php?g=69275&amp;p=448560</a>: Late Antique Resources – primary texts and tools</p> <p><a href="http://www.roman-emperors.org/">http://www.roman-emperors.org/</a>: <i>De Imperatoribus Romanis</i>: Encyclopedia of Roman emperors and their families with biographical essays and bibliography</p> <p><a href="http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/MUHLBERGER/ORB/LT-ATEST.HTM">http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/MUHLBERGER/ORB/LT-ATEST.HTM</a> Visualizing Late Antiquity – University of Kent research project focused on urban society and everyday life in the fourth-sixth centuries</p> <p><a href="https://lateantiquity.web.illinois.edu/">https://lateantiquity.web.illinois.edu/</a>: Society for Late Antiquity with information on journals, book series, degree programs and social media dedicated to Late Antiquity</p>
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	<p>Part I. The Later Roman Empire</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The “Crisis of the Third Century” and the reforms of Diocletian</li> <li>The Age of Constantine the Great (307-337)</li> <li>The successors of Constantine</li> <li>The Theodosian dynasty (379-457)</li> <li>The Western Roman Empire and the “barbarians”</li> <li>The rise of the Ostrogoths and the “fall” of the Western Empire</li> <li>The Age of Justinian (527-565)</li> <li>The successor kingdoms in the West</li> </ol> <p>Part II. Christianisation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From Paganism to Christianity</li> <li>The politics of Christianity: Bishops and bishoprics</li> <li>Martyrdom and sainthood, pilgrimage and relics, monks and monasticism</li> <li>Christian sects and heresies</li> <li>The Monophysite schism in Egypt and Syria</li> <li>The Acacian schism splits the western and eastern churches</li> </ol> <p>Part III: Societies and Economies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The imperial economy</li> <li>The divergence between east and west</li> <li>Mediterranean urban life in transition, landscapes of change in the countryside, communities and identities</li> <li>Roman law and legal culture, justice and equality</li> <li>Marriage and family</li> </ol> <p>Part IV: Literary and Artistic Culture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christianity and the transformation of Classical art</li> <li>Orality, literacy and education (secular and sacred)</li> <li>The varieties of historical writing- from secular history to world chronicle, and the invention of church histories</li> <li>Christian texts – biblical exegesis, hagiography and theology</li> <li>Traditions of magic – texts and practitioners, curses and erotic magic, healing and exorcism</li> </ol> <p>Part V: The End of Antiquity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The challenge of Sassanian Persia in the east</li> <li>Incursions of Huns, Avars and Slavs in the Balkans</li> </ol>

	<p>d) The reign of Heraklios (610-641) and the renewed war between Byzantium and Persia</p> <p>e) Decline of the empire</p>
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