

## **Topics in Late Antique Religious History (HIST 405 – Spring 2022)**

**Professor: Dr. Barnes**

**Office:** Brittain Hall 380

**Office telephone:** (843) 349-2525

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2:00-4:00 and by appointment

**\*Finals Week Only:** Office hours will be 8:00-12:00 May 4 of finals week

**E-Mail:** E-mail is the best way to contact me, and you can e-mail me at [abarnes@coastal.edu](mailto:abarnes@coastal.edu).

### **Course Description:**

HIST 405 - Topics in Late Antique Religious History (3 credits) This course examines the cultural, economic, political, and military historical developments that altered the Mediterranean world between c. 200 and 800 CE and their impact on diverse religious traditions, illustrating how various religious identities responded to one another and the transformative events of this period. Topics may include the monastic movement, the persistence of paganism, ethnicity and identity, Christianization, shifts in religious art and architecture, urbanization, or other topics as determined by the instructor. This course may be taken for up to six hours of credit under different topics. F, S, Su.

### **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify significant cultural, social, economic and military developments that were transformative to the late antique Mediterranean
- Evaluate religious transitions and developments within the broader contexts of late antique historical changes
- Demonstrate an understanding of late antique historiography
- Construct oral and written arguments that integrate primary evidence and scholarly analyses

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance for this class is imperative for success. Therefore, in keeping with university policy, missing more than 6 (25%) of the schedule classes will result in a failing grade for the course, regardless of other grades earned. Likewise, excused absences will be determined based on documentation the professor deems appropriate and only for reasons included in University Policy STUD-332:

<https://www.coastal.edu/policies/pdf/stud-332-may2020.pdf>.

### **\*Breakdown of all points used for figuring final grades:**

(Any bonus points earned will be added to the student's total accumulated points at the end of the semester)

Discussion (25 x 10 pts)	= 250 pts
50-word Assign (15 x 10 pts)	= 150 pts
Paper (1 x 100 pts)	= 100 pts
Total points possible	= 500 pts

### **\*Grading Scale:**

(448-500)	90 – 100% = A
(438-447)	88 – 89% = B+
(398-437)	80 - 87% = B
(388-397)	78 – 79% = C+

(348-387)	70 - 77% = C
(338-347)	68 - 69% = D+
(298-337)	60 - 67% = D
(297 and below)	59 and below = F

→As stated in the university catalogue, **A, B+ and B, C+ and C, D+ and D**, and **F** carry the traditional academic connotations of excellent, good, average, poor, and failing performance, respectively. Thus, students should remember that, in keeping with university policy, only a performance that is EXCELLENT earns a grade of A for an assignment and/or the course.

**Required Readings:**

1. All required readings will be posted on Moodle or can be accessed online through the Kimble Library via Ebrary. Students are responsible for accessing all readings well before the assignments are due. As a result, no late assignment will be accepted under any circumstances – ever.

**IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING MOODLE:**

Important class information will be communicated through Moodle, including class announcements. As a result, students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with Moodle and for any information sent to the class via Moodle. Also, because technological problems can arise, students should do their quizzes and other assignments well in advance to avoid any complications. Exceptions will not be given to those who have such difficulties. Any activity on Moodle deemed unscholarly, as academic dishonesty (see more on this below), or otherwise inappropriate will result in a failing grade for the course. If students experience technological difficulties, they must contact Student Computing Services, as the professor has no control over this aspect of the course.

**IF TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ARISE, YOU SHOULD:**

1. Contact Student Computing Services at: <http://www.coastal.edu/scs/>
2. Call the Tech Support Center at 843-349-2908
3. Visit one of the many tech support centers on campus. The locations and hours for all the support centers can be found at: <http://www.coastal.edu/scs/index.html?type=hoursandlocations>

**Discussion points:**

→Student discussions on readings will account for **50%** of the overall grade, meaning students should read all assignments carefully and come to class prepared for active involvement in class discussions. There will be a total of **250 points possible for discussion participation**. If you are not present on discussion days, you will NOT receive discussion points for that day under any circumstances. Furthermore, points are earned only when students have READ the assignment AND are active participants in discussion. This means that simply sitting in the room and observing the discussion is not considered participation, nor is it sufficient to simply ask questions, although questions are welcome and should be a part of discussions.

- Participation grades will be assigned according to the following rubric:

- 9-10 pts = dynamic and informed (*i.e.*, clear knowledge of assigned readings) participation
- 8 points = solid participation with evidence of a careful reading of the sources
- 7 points = occasional participation with evidence of having consulted the readings
- 6 points = participates with minimal effort (*i.e.* only asking questions)
- 5-1 points = present but adds nothing of significance to the discussion or essentially repeats what has already been said

0 points = not present, no attempt to participate, unable to answer questions, or unable to exhibit any evidence of having read the assignment

→ Students are expected to have a printed copy of the day's reading assignment with them in class during discussion. Failure to produce a hard copy upon the instructor's request could result in zero points for the day's discussion.

### **50-Word Assignments:**

Students will be required to write approximately **15 50-word assignments**, in which they will be expected to summarize the argument of an assigned reading and provide significant evidence for the conclusions. Thus, there will be a total of **150 points possible** for 50-word assignments throughout the semester, which will account for **30%** of the overall grade. 50-word assignments are exercises in learning how to write more concisely, extract historical interpretations from written materials, and to choose primary evidence that best supports an argument. Therefore, students will be given precise instructions for writing the 50-word assignments, and the assignments will be graded according to these premises. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in a zero for the assignment.

### **Papers:**

Students are required to write **one 28-30 page paper worth 100 points**, meaning the final paper will account for a total of **20%** of the overall grade. In the final paper, students will be expected to demonstrate that they have read the pertinent readings. Students will be given precise instructions for writing the paper, and the paper will be graded strictly according to these premises. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in either a grade reduction or a zero for the entire assignment. A late paper will not be accepted under any circumstances!

→ All written assignments **MUST** be turned in by the **BEGINNING** of class on the assigned due dates as a word document (.doc or .docx) attached to an e-mail **AND** as a hard copy handed in at the beginning of class; otherwise, zero points will be given for the assignment. No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances. If you are going to be unable to attend class the day an assignment is due, you should turn the assignment in early, as late assignments will not be accepted, regardless of excuses. No exceptions.

→ Both assignments and university related events are always scheduled well in advance. Therefore, if you must be absent for a university sponsored event, you must turn in assignments prior to the event, as they will **NOT** be accepted late.

→ Incomplete papers will not be graded.

→ If you fail to turn in an assignment as a hard copy, you will receive the appropriate grade penalty and will not receive written comments from the professor for the assignment.

→ Assignments must be turned in on **NEW** paper only (not paper that has something printed on the opposite side).

### **NOTES:**

Each student is responsible for his or her own class notes, meaning Dr. Barnes **WILL NOT** give out her notes to any student under any circumstances, so please do not ask.

### **Grievance Policy:**

If unhappy with a grade, a student must submit to the instructor approximately one page detailing why s/he feels the assignment was mis-graded along with the graded assignment at which time the instructor will set up an appointment to discuss the grievance. Students must submit grievances within one week of the assignment's return to the general class; otherwise, the student has accepted the given grade. If a student chooses to submit a grievance, the assignment will be reviewed and the grade may be either raised or lowered as deemed necessary by further scrutiny.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities are responsible for contacting the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services to find out about their rights *and* their obligations. Also, you **MUST** bring me official documentation from the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services **BEFORE** I can make any exceptions to regular classroom policies in order to accommodate disabilities, including exams. If all paperwork is presented properly and additional time is required for online quizzes, the online quizzes must be taken at the testing center and without the aid of the textbook or any other class materials. All other accommodations will be made as necessary.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating in any form and on any assignment, quiz, test, or other graded assignment is a serious offense. If a student is caught committing academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and/or cheating in any form, s/he **WILL receive a failing grade (specifically the grade of FX) for the entire course** and will be reported to the appropriate university officials. The Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct establishes the rights and responsibilities of students attending the University. As such, expectations are established and students are held accountable for academic honesty and integrity as described in Section III of the Code of Student Conduct, which can be accessed here: <https://www.coastal.edu/conduct/>.

### **Classroom Civility:**

Upon entering the college classroom, all students are expected to practice behaviors conducive to a mutually respectful and disruption free learning environment. A variety of behaviors are disruptive to the learning process, not only for you but also for your fellow classmates; it is my responsibility to curb such distractions or incivilities, which I will do without exception. Therefore, among others, I expect the following classroom behavioral standards:

- If you are late for class, regardless of reason, it will count as an unexcused absence, and if you are so late that lecture has already begun, you will not be allowed to enter the class – as noted above.
- I expect you to come to class on time and to remain for the duration of the class. The consequence of failing to do so, regardless of reason, is to earn an unexcused absence: see the attendance policy above.
- If you have an emergency, you may go to the bathroom. Habitual trips to the bathroom will result in an unexcused absence unless you provide medical documentation that explicitly states the necessity for you to do so.
- I expect all electronic devices, **including cell phones, iPods, laptops, etc., to be silenced and/or turned off and PUT AWAY for the duration of the class.** I have a zero-tolerance policy regarding these devices; if you violate this policy, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked for an unexcused absence. If you have a disability that demands you use any electronic device, you must provide the proper paperwork from the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services **BEFORE** it will be allowed.
- I expect students to participate in discussions in respectful ways. This demands that we all listen to different viewpoints, use civil speech, and be vigilant against intolerance and hate. We may disagree with one another, while listening with empathy and fairness. This also demands that one person talks at any given time. For example, if I am talking, do not engage in side conversations, as such continual disruptions may lead to you being removed from the classroom on either a temporary or permanent basis and will result in an

unexcused absence for the day. Likewise, you will be expected to listen – and not engage in side conversations – when a classmate is speaking as well.

- While civility during a discussion is absolutely required, all opinions will not be deemed equal, as history is an evidenced based discipline. Thus, opinions without scholarly evidence will not be deemed equal to those supported by such evidence. This does not mean that others should be uncivil in pointing out the lack of evidence others may have; only that an opinion in and of itself will not be considered a valid scholarly opinion without the support of scholarly evidence and, therefore, will not be given the same amount of floor time as those that are supported by such evidence.
- Above all, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that complies with the Student Code of Conduct while in the classroom. Thus, any behavior that disrupts the learning or teaching process, including disrespectful or uncivil behavior towards either the professor or other students, will NOT be tolerated, and may result in a student being removed from the class on either a temporary or a permanent basis.
- If the student behaves in such a disruptive manner that the professor requests his or her removal from the entire course, the professor will also report the student to the Dean of Students with the expectation of significant university sanctions against the student.
- Because this class will deal with especially sensitive topics, students must be prepared to address all course topics in a professional and academic manner. Those who fail to do so, including in ways not listed above, will be reported to the Dean of Students and repeat offenses will result in permanent removal from the course.

#### **Inclement weather policy:**

Classes will take place as long as the university is open and holding classes. If there are extreme weather conditions, such as the possibility of a hurricane or dangerous driving conditions from flooding or snow and ice, students should check their e-mail for any class updates. Additionally, class work may be redirected to Moodle when such conditions result in missed class(es). Therefore, students should be prepared to adjust accordingly.

#### **Further Notes:**

→The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class and are the responsibility of the student.

→All assignments and test dates will be posted on the syllabus and/or via Moodle and any necessary changes to the class schedule will be announced in class, meaning students are responsible for keeping up with this information and attendance is very important.

→ Students will not be given altered due dates for assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. to accommodate special travel plans unless it is for university sponsored events that require travel. Also, official university documentation must be provided at least a week in advance of the absence, and the student will make up the missed assessment at the professor's discretion. Absolutely no change will be allowed for the final exam date, so please do not ask.

**N.B. Final grades for the course are NON-NEGOTIABLE. So, please do not contact the professor after final grades have been submitted, as no changes will be made to the final grade unless there has been a mathematical error in the calculations of the grade. No exceptions.**

## WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE:

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### WEEK ONE: Introduction

Jan. 9: Introduction to the course and the early empire

Jan. 11: Lecture (no reading): The early empire through the third century

### WEEK TWO: Late Antiquity and the Tetrarchy

Jan. 16: 1. Brown – “The Field of Late Antiquity”

Jan. 18: 1. Van Dam – *The Roman Revolution of Constantine*, Ch. 9 - **50-wrd Assignment 1 Due!**

2. Van Dam – *The Roman Revolution of Constantine*, Ch. 10

### WEEK THREE: The Tetrarchy

Jan. 23: 1. Van Dam – *The Roman Revolution of Constantine*, Ch. 11

Jan. 25: 2. Primary Source 1

### WEEK FOUR: The Games

Jan. 30: 1. Ritter – Ch. 29

2. Cameron – Ch. 30 – **50-wrd Assignment 2 Due!**

3. Edwards – Ch. 31

Feb. 1: 1. Barton – *Roman Honor* – Ch. 3 – **50-wrd Assignment 3 Due!**

2. Barton – *Roman Honor* – Ch. 4

3. Primary Source 2

### WEEK FIVE:

Feb. 6: 1. Dodge – Ch. 15 “Building for an Audience”

2. “People as Power” by R. Limm – **50-wrd Assignment 4 Due!**

Feb. 8: 1. Cameron – *The Last Pagans of Rome*, pp. 1-52 – **50-wrd Assignment 5 Due!**

2. Primary Source 3

### WEEK SIX:

Feb. 13: 1. Cameron – *The Last Pagans of Rome*, pp. 53-92 – **50-wrd Assignment 6 Due!**

Feb. 15: 1. Cameron – *The Last Pagans of Rome*, pp. 93-154

### WEEK SEVEN:

Feb. 20: 1. Cameron – *The Last Pagans of Rome*, pp. 155-205

Feb. 22: 1. Rebillard – *The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity*, pp. 1-36 - **50-wrd Assignment 7 Due!**

2. Primary Source 4

### WEEK EIGHT:

Feb. 27: 1. Rebillard – *The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity*, pp. 37-88 – **50-wrd Assignment 8 Due!**

Mar. 1: 1. Rebillard – *The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity*, pp. 89-139

2. Primary Source 5

### WEEK NINE:

Mar. 6: Spring break Week = No Classes! Enjoy! ☺

### WEEK TEN:

- Mar. 13: 1. Rebillard – *The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity*, pp. 140-178  
Mar. 15: 1. Saghy – “Martyrs Bishops and the Bishops Martyrs”  
2. Salzman – *The Making of a Christian Aristocracy*, pp. 1- 18 - **50-wrd Assignment 9 Due!**

WEEK ELEVEN:

- Mar. 20: 1. Salzman – *The Making of a Christian Aristocracy*, pp. 19-68  
Mar. 22: 1. Salzman – *The Making of a Christian Aristocracy*, pp. 69-137 – **50-wrd Assignment 10 Due!**  
2. Primary Source 6

WEEK TWELVE:

- Mar. 27: 1. Salzman – *The Making of a Christian Aristocracy*, pp. 138-199  
Mar. 29: 1. Salzman – *The Making of a Christian Aristocracy*, pp. 200-219  
2. Cooper – *The Fall of the Roman Household*, Ch. 1 – **50-wrd Assignment 11 Due!**

WEEK THIRTEEN:

- Apr. 3: 1. Cooper – *The Fall of the Roman Household*, Ch. 2  
Apr. 5: 1. Cooper – *The Fall of the Roman Household*, Ch. 3 – **50-wrd Assignment 12 Due!**  
2. Primary Source 7

WEEK FOURTEEN:

- Apr. 10: 1. Brown – *Through the Eye of the Needle*, Ch. 12 – **50-wrd Assignment 13 Due!**  
2. Brown – *Through the Eye of the Needle*, Ch. 15  
Apr. 12 1. Brown – *Through the Eye of the Needle*, Ch. 17  
2. Brown – *Through the Eye of the Needle*, Ch. 18  
3. Brown – *Through the Eye of the Needle*, Ch. 23  
4. Primary Source 8

WEEK FIFTEEN:

- Apr. 17: 1. Heather – “The Barbarian in Late Antiquity” – **50-wrd Assignment 14 Due!**  
Apr. 19: 1. Goffart – *Barbarian Tides*, pp. 1-55

WEEK SIXTEEN:

- Apr. 24: 1. Goffart – *Barbarian Tides*, pp. 73-118 – **50-wrd Assignment 15 Due!**  
2. Primary Source 9

**\*May 3 at 1:30 pm = Final Paper Due!** – ALL students are expected to be present to turn in their final papers during the regular scheduled final exam time, which is 1:30 p.m. in regular classroom