HIST 300B Barbarians and the Fall of the Roman Empire (**cross listed with Anthropology; Classical Studies; and German Studies)**

TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM

Dumbach Hall - Room 233

Prof. Leslie Dossey

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This course examines the interaction between Romans and the so-called “barbarians” such as the Goths, Huns, and Arabs from the 2nd to the 6th centuries CE.  We will be addressing issues such as:  the late Roman military  – whether the enemies were getting stronger or the Roman military weaker; the “movement of peoples” -  whether large-scale migrations really occurred; the ethnic identity of peoples like the Goths or Huns – were they Roman constructs or did they have some basis in reality (as assessed by archaeology and scientific evidence such as the isotopic analysis of bones); the incorporation of immigrants  - both how well the Romans integrated them and how modern attitudes toward immigration have influenced the scholarship on ancient “barbarians.”  Readings will be a mix of recent secondary scholarship and primary sources.  In addition to a midterm and final exam, students will be a writing a medium length (10-12 page) research paper based on primary sources.

**Required readings** (books for purchase at Loyola University Bookstore):

P. J. Heather, *Empires and Barbarians* (London: Macmillan, 2009).

Bryan Ward-Perkins, *The Fall of Rome: And the End of Civilization* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006)

Articles and primary sources posted on Sakai or available through the Loyola University Libraries web page: <http://libraries.luc.edu/>

**Bryan Ward-Perkins** (Author)

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**Requirements:**

Participation (includes occasional article summaries) 20%

Midterm exam 20%

Final exam 20%

* 1. page research paper (includes proposal and rough draft) 40%

1. Participation: Your participation grade will be based on our class discussions (usually the last 30 minutes of class)and on occasional short summaries of assigned readings. To prepare for these discussions, keep up with readings and look over the questions that I send out the class before our discussions. Please note: On certain “heavy” weeks, we will be dividing up the readings and you (in conjunction with others) will need to summarize an article on Sakai for the rest of the class. Expect to do this once or twice in the course of the semester.  **Missing more than three classes will lower your participation grade by one grade (i.e. A will become B)** unless you have a documented medical or family emergency.

2. Midterm and Final Exams (open book). These will consist of short essay questions and analysis of texts or images that you have already seen. They will be open book and open note. The final will follow the same format as the midterm, with a focus on the second half of the semester. You will get a study-guide one week before the exam.

3. Research paper: Your research paper will employ a combination of primary and secondary sources to explore some aspect barbarians and the Roman response to them. You are encouraged to build on the readings from one of our discussion sections. A more detailed description of this assignment will be handed out in the course of the semester.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 92.5-100% | A | 73.5-76.4 | C |
| 89.5-92.4 | A- | 69.5-73.4 | C- |
| 86.5-89.4 | B+ | 66.5-69.4 | D+ |
| 83.5-86.4 | B | 63.5-66.4 | D |
| 79.5-83.4 | B- | 59.5-63.4 | D- |
| 76.5-79.4 | C+ | 59.4 and below | F |

**Policy on late papers and missed exams**: Unless you get an extension from me ahead of time, late papers will lose a third of a grade for every day late (a B+ will become a B). If you miss an exam, you may take a make-up during my office hours, but will be penalized a full letter grade (A becomes B). The penalty does not apply in cases of documented medical or family emergency.

**Academic dishonesty**: Here is the definition of plagiarism given by Wayne Booth in *The Craft of Research*, p. 167:

You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else's words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the sources at your elbow.

To avoid plagiarism, take notes carefully, putting into quota­tion marks all real quotes and summarizing other things in your own words. Always cite your source of information, even when you paraphrase (i.e. put into your own words). **Any papers that show evidence of plagiarism will be returned with a grade of 0 and the incident will be reported to the chair of the history department and to the CAS Dean.**

Schedule

1. Jan. 20, 22: Theoretical considerations: How should we think about barbarians? How did the Romans?

Heather Ch. 1; J. Grygiel, "[To Survive, Decentralize!. The Barbarian Threat and State Decentralization](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0030438711000603)," *Orbis* 55, no. 4 (2011): 663-684; W. Goffart, "[Rome's Final Conquest: The Barbarians](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1478-0542.2008.00523.x/pdf)," *HISTORY COMPASS.* 6, no. 3 (2008): 855-883 (both articles can be accessed through our library web page: <http://libraries.luc.edu/> (or click on the syllabus on Sakai))

2. Jan. 25, 27, 29: Rome’s treatment of barbarians in the first two centuries CE

Heather Ch. 2; Selections from Cassius Dio 78 and Herodian (Sakai);RR Paine RR, R Vargiu, C Signoretti, and A Coppa, "[A Health Assessment for Imperial Roman Burials Recovered from the Necropolis of San Donato and Bivio CH, Urbino, Italy](http://www.isita-org.com/jass/Contents/2009%20vol87/PDF/On-Line_bassa/JASs2009_08_Paine.pdf)", *Journal of Anthropological Sciences = Rivista Di Antropologia : JASS / Istituto Italiano Di Antropologia.* 87 (2009): 193-210.

3. Feb. 1, 3, 5: The Third Century Crisis and the barbarian migrations – did they really happen, and if so, why?

Heather Ch. 3; selections from Jordanes (Sakai), M. Kulikowski, *Rome’s Gothic Wars* (Cambridge: 2007), 49-70 (Sakai);M. McCormick et al., “Climate change during and after the Roman Empire,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 43.2 (2012): 169-220 (Sakai); Krenz‐Niedbała, M., and T. Kozłowski. "Comparing the chronological distribution of enamel hypoplasia in Rogowo, Poland (2nd century AD) using two methods of defect timing estimation." *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 23, no. 4 (2013): 410-420 (Sakai)

**Paper proposal and bibliography (first draft)**

4. Feb. 8, 10, 12 The Roman Empire in the fourth century: was its army getting weaker?

Heather Ch. 4; selections from Ammianus Marcellinus (Sakai); H. Elton, *Warfare in Roman Europe, AD 350-425* (Oxford: 1996), Ch. 2 (Barbarian Military Practices and Conclusion) (Sakai)

5. Feb. 15, 17, 19 Goths and Huns

Heather Ch. 5 (“Huns on the run”); Priscus, Embassy to Attila the Hun (Sakai)

6. Feb. 22, 24, 26 Fall of the western Roman Empire and survival of the eastern Roman empire

Ward–Perkins, *The Fall of Rome: And the End of Civilization*, Chs. 1-3

**Paper proposal and bibliography (final draft)**

7. Feb. 29, March 2, 4 Aftermath of 476: post-Roman successor kingdoms and barbarian identity

Heather Ch. 6 (Franks and Anglo-Saxons); Ward Perkins, Ch. 4 (“living under the new masters”);

Readings to be divided up: J. Moreland, "Going native, becoming German: Isotopes and identities in late Roman and early medieval England," *Postmedieval: a Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 1, no. 1-2 (2010): 142-149 (Sakai); M. G. Thomas, MP Stumpf, and H Härke, "[Evidence for an Apartheid-Like Social Structure in Early Anglo-Saxon England](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/25223656.pdf?acceptTC=true)", *Proceedings. Biological Sciences / The Royal Society.* 273, no. 1601 (2006): 2651-7; H. Harke, "Anglo-Saxon Immigration and Ethnogenesis," *Medieval Archaeology.* 55, no. 1 (2011): 1-28 (Sakai)

8. March 7-12 Spring Break (no class)

9. March 7, 9, 11 Life under barbarian rule

Ward-Perkins, chs. 5-6 (pp 87-137); selections from Gregory of Tours (Sakai);Nikola KOEPKE and JOERG BATEN, "[The Biological Standard of Living in Europe During the Last Two Millennia](http://www.jstor.org/openurl?issn=1361-4916&title=&volume=9&date=2005&issue=1&spage=61)", *European Review of Economic History.* 9, no. 1 (2005): 61-95.

Readings to be divided up: Barbiera, I. and G. Dall‐Zuanna. “[Population dynamics in Italy in the Middle Ages: New Insights from Archaeological findings](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2009.00283.x/pdf).” *Population and Development Review* 35.2 (2009): 367‐389; Lightfoot E., O'Connell T.C., and Slaus M. 2012. "[Changing Cultures, Changing Cuisines: Cultural Transitions and Dietary Change in Iron Age, Roman, and Early Medieval Croatia](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajpa.22070/pdf)". *American Journal of Physical Anthropology.* 148, no. 4: 543-556; Slaus M, M Novak, Z Bedić, and D Strinović. 2012. "[Bone Fractures As Indicators of Intentional Violence in the Eastern Adriatic from the Antique to the Late Medieval Period (2nd-16th Century AD)](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajpa.22083/pdf)". *American Journal of Physical Anthropology.* 149, no. 1: 26-38.

10. March 14, 16, 18Justinian, reconquest, and the insertion of religion into Roman foreign policy

Selections from Procopius (Sakai); *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian* (Chs. 18 “[Justinian and the barbarian kingdoms](http://cco.cambridge.org/uid=1596/extract?id=ccol0521817463_CCOL0521817463A025)” and Ch. 19 “[Byzantium and the East in the Sixth Century](http://cco.cambridge.org/uid=1596/pdf_handler?id=ccol0521817463_CCOL0521817463A026&pdf_hh=1)”);

11. March 14, 16, 18 The southern “barbarians”: Arabs and Moors

R. G. Hoyland, “Arab kings, Arab tribes, Arabic texts and the beginnings of (Muslim) Arab historical memory in late Roman inscriptions,” in H. Cotton, *From Hellenism to Islam Cultural and Linguistic Change in the Roman Near East* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), 374-400 (Sakai)

**Nov. 4: Paper draft due**

12. March 21, 23 The later 6th century: Slavs and Avars

Heather, Ch. 8; Reitsema, Laurie J., and Tomasz Kozłowski. "Diet and society in Poland before the state: stable isotope evidence from a Wielbark population (2nd c. AD)." *AnthropologicAl review* 76, no. 1 (2013): 1-22 (Sakai)

Friday March 24 through Monday March 28 Easter holiday: no class

13. March 30, April 1 New kingdoms of the west

Heather, Ch. 7 (esp. 359-385); Ward-Perkins, Ch. 7; Selections from Salic Law and the law code of Ine of Wessex (Sakai)

14. April 4, 6, 8 Islam and the Arab conquests

Selections from the Quran and Hadith (Sakai

15. April 15, 17, 19 Paper Presentations

**Final draft of paper due**

16. April 25, 27, 29 Paper Presentations

**Final exam:**