

Department of History, Carleton University

HIST 3902A: Topics in European History
Cities & Countryside in the Ancient World
Fall 2012

Professor: Dr. Shawn Graham

Office: Paterson 406

E-mail: After classes start, please direct all e-mail contact through cuLearn e-mail

Office Hours: Fridays 11 – 12; other times by chance or appointment

Class Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 4.05 – 5.25 am

Class Location: TB 236

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Required Textbook: The following is on reserve in the library. Its philosophical and methodological approach will underpin much of what we will do, although we will only read certain chapters from it.

- Knappett, Carl. *An Archaeology of Interaction: Network Perspectives on Material Culture and Society*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2011.

Other readings are drawn from academic journals, academic project websites, and other disparate sources. Readings for a given week will be listed in the relevant weekly description on our cuLearn course page.

Course Description: *Cities are creatures of the countryside. Understanding that relationship is key to understanding the ancient world. Discuss.*

This course looks at the relationship between cities and countryside in the ancient world, as evidenced primarily through landscape archaeology. I will be arguing, amongst other things, that the form of that relationship is the key indicator for understanding the mindset, the nature of, that particular culture. It is no accident that ‘cities’ and ‘civilization’ are etymologically related: thus, looking at cities and countryside will give us an understanding of what being civilized meant in antiquity.

Objectives:

The philosophy of the core learning in this course can be summed up as, ‘*Hacking as a Way of Knowing*’. That is, we make things and try to understand through that process. Every exercise in this course builds on every other, as we build tools and work with data to construct an understanding of what it meant to be civilized in the (Greco-Roman) ancient world. The course objectives therefore are to:

- Introduce and explore the study of ancient landscapes, society, and economy
 - Develop facility with representing archaeological and historical data using GIS and/or Network Analysis
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- Make a positive and public contribution to scholarly knowledge on some aspect of Greco-Roman antiquity as it played out across space.

Weekly Topics: As a general rule, each week we will use the first session to set up some of the major themes and questions we will want to explore; in the second session we will look at current research projects, websites, and other materials in the light of those themes. Students will be expected to have completed all readings and will be prepared to contribute actively to the discussion. Please see the weekly modules in our cuLearn course space.

Required (free) Software: You should download and install the following free software packages on your computer – or team up with someone else who can download and install them, should you not have access to a suitable machine. Note that ‘Portable GIS’ is meant to be run from a USB stick, and thus could be run on University computers.

Netlogo <http://ccl.northwestern.edu/netlogo/>

QGIS <http://www.qgis.org/> **OR** Portable GIS <http://www.archaeogeek.com/portable-gis.html>

Gephi <http://gephi.org/>

Other useful programs & tools will be posted on the course website.

Grades: Grades will be assigned as percentages and alphabetical final grades will be assigned following the percentage equivalents described in the Undergraduate Calendar. Marks for all grade components will be posted on the course cuLearn site. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Evaluation

- Finding Your Way: ORBIS and the social experience of space. 10% (due September 19)
- GIS assignment. 15% (due October 24)
- Network Analysis/ABM assignment. 15% (due October 31)
- Inquiry into the social construction of ancient geography: Final Project. 40% (due December 3)

These four assignments dovetail into one another. The first exercise involves working with ORBIS, the Stanford Geospatial Network Model of the Roman World <http://orbis.stanford.edu/> to experience, via networks, maps, and simulation, something of the social construction of space around the Mediterranean. In the second and third exercises, you will create maps and/or social network graphs from real archaeological data (exact details TBA). In the last assignment, you will combine your understanding of the spatial realities of the ancient world with your maps and graphs in a final project which may combine media and text to answer the question with which we began the class. Working as a pair is permissible on the final project. I will seek out publishing opportunities for the best three final projects, with their creators’ permission. One possible venue is *The Journal of Digital Humanities*. Exact details TBA.

I reserve the right to grade group work on an individual basis.

- Theory & Practise Exercises 20%. (Part 1 due: October 3rd. Part 2 due: October 17th).

This is a suite of exercises **you may redo** until you have achieved mastery. You may begin these exercises during Week 2, and submit at any point prior to the due date. The earlier you submit, the greater the chance that we can look at the work and help you. You have to allow at least 4 days for us to look the work over and return it to you. If you submit 4 days before the due date, you will not be allowed to redo the work.

NB You will note that there is no final exam. **DO NOT** take that as a sign that this class is not as important as your other classes. By not having a final, I wish to signal to you that you must bring your best work to bear on your class work at all times.

Technology Failure: As much of this course depends on the internet, you will be expected to have appropriate internet connectivity, and a backup plan for your work: ‘my computer crashed’ (and similar) **will not be an acceptable excuse**. Please make sure your computer is as up to date as possible in terms of software, drivers, Java, and so on.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Please see the attached document.

Academic Accommodations

Please see the attached document.
