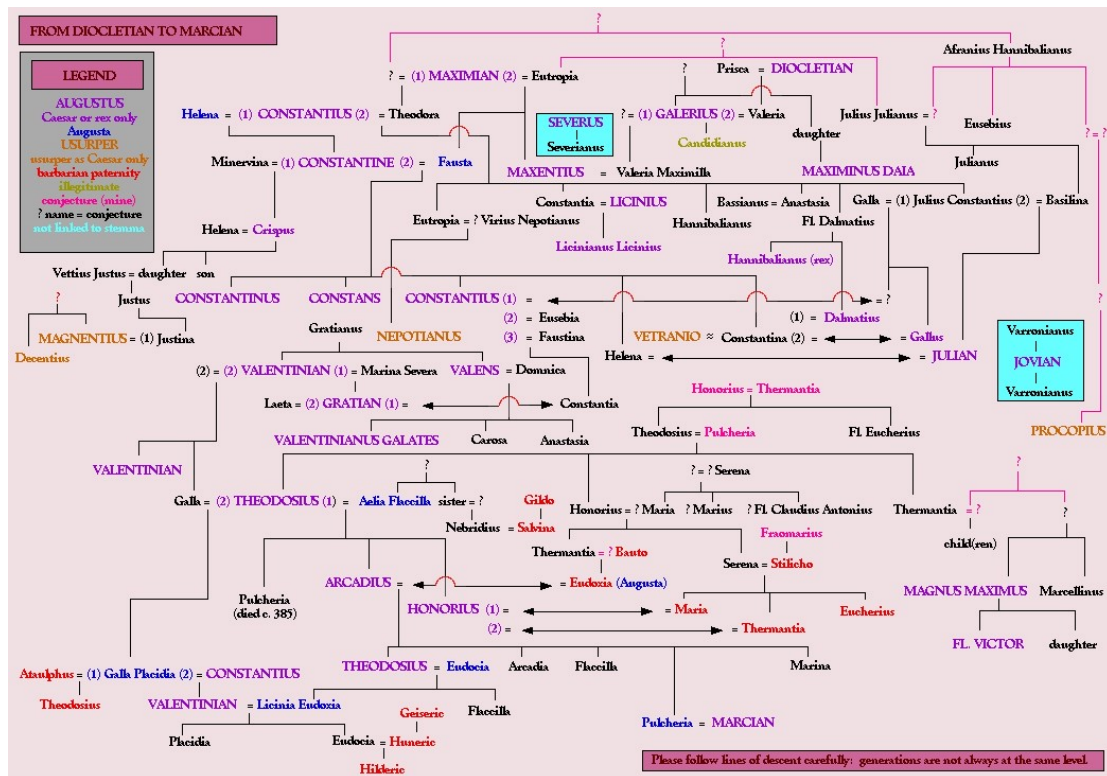


# CLAS 404

## Topic in History and Historiography: The Theodosians: Culture and Society in the Late-Roman Empire(s)

TRIMESTER 1 2016



Royal Line of Descent in the Age of the Theodosians

**CLASSICS PROGRAMME**

**CLAS 404**

**Topic in History and Historiography:**  
***The Theodosians: Culture and Society in the Late-Roman Empire(s)***  
**30 POINTS**

**Full Year 2016**

**Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 13 November 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 16 October 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break (Tri 1):** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Mid-year break:** 30 June to 8 July 2016

**Mid-trimester break (Tri 2):** 22 August to 4 September 2016

**Study period:** 17 to 20 October 2016

**Examination/Assessment period:** 21 October to 12 November 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

**Class times and locations**

*Fridays 3:10 – 5pm in OK526 (Classics Museum)*

**Names and contact details**

*Course Coordinator: Dr. Mark Masterson*

*Email: [mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz)*

*Phone: 463-6909*

*Office Hours: by arrangement*

*Classics Programme Administrator: Hannah Tokona ([hannah.tokona@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hannah.tokona@vuw.ac.nz), 463-5319)*

**Communication of additional information**

*Any additional information will be posted on the Noticeboards in the Classics Programme Foyer (Level 5, Old Kirk Building) and on the course's Blackboard page.*

**Prescription**

A period or topic of ancient history and/or historiography for presentation, discussion and contextual analysis.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate knowledge of the major personages of the Theodosian dynasty;
- 2) demonstrate knowledge of major historical events of this period;
- 3) discuss major issues of society, law, religion and sex/gender in the late-Roman empire;
- 4) synthesize their own interpretations on the basis disparate pieces of ancient evidence and secondary sources;
- 5) provide a summative evaluation of the importance of the late-Roman empire;
- 6) be well on their way to being able to conduct their own research into the later Roman empire.

## **Teaching format**

The format of CLAS 404 is a seminar. We will be discussing the readings and thinking things through together. It is essential that students do the readings prior to class and come ready to discuss them. While the lecturer is important to the success of this class, students' conscientious preparation and willingness to participate matter perhaps more.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. submit both directed writings, the essay declaration and bibliography, the research essay;
2. lead one of the seminars;
3. sit the final examination.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## **Workload**

The total commitment for this course is 300 hours over the year. 36 hours will be spend in class meetings. The remaining hours (over 260 of them) will be spent on reading, research, writing, and studying for the examination. Some students might have to put in more time, others less. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks work is due.

## **Assessment**

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Directed Writing #1	10%	1, 2, 4	2 May
2	Directed Writing #2	10%	1, 2, 4	18 July
3	Leading a Seminar	9%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	TBA
4	Declaration of Research Essay Topic and Bibliography	1%	6	22 August
5	Research Essay	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	23 September
6	Three-hour Final Examination	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	In examination period: 21 October to 12 November

### Directed-Writing Exercises

For this class there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **1000 words** in length. They will be based on material contained in the readings and on class discussion. Each assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the “**Course Content**” section and students **must** submit it there electronically. Students will have about two weeks to complete each of these exercises. I will discuss these assignments further in the seminar. These activities will require no extra research.

***Directed Writing #1 is due on Blackboard on or before 2 May.***

***Directed Writing #2 is due on Blackboard on or before 18 July.***

### Leading a Seminar

Each student will lead one of the seminars. We will decide who is doing which seminar in week three. Leaders will offer commentary on the week’s readings and “place” them within the context of the course. Students may want to pose questions to the seminar for further discussion or provide a handout. The student should be active in the discussion that follows. I will speak more specifically about expectations in week two or so.

### Declaration of Research Essay Topic and Bibliography

You will provide a paragraph that describes what you will be doing in your Research Essay. There should be a clear topic sentence and an indication of the shape your argument will have. You should include a bibliography of around 10 items.

You may want to talk with me at some point before you turn in this assignment.

**Due Date: on or before Saturday 22 August on Blackboard.**

### Research Essay

2500-3000 words in length

## **Due Date: on or before Friday 23 September *on Blackboard***

The newly revised *Classics Study Guide* that will aid you in preparing written assignments is available from the office in Classics for a nominal fee.

### Final Examination

The exam will consist of essays designed to test your ability to synthesize what you have learnt throughout the course. You will also be requested to analyze a primary-text excerpt in terms of the issues and concepts that have come up over the year in this seminar. The final examination will be discussed in more detail in one of our final meetings.

## **Marking Criteria**

When written work is being marked, the most important things are the cogency of the thought and the ambition of the work:

- 1) Does the writing make sense?
- 2) Does the argument use evidence in a searching and aware way?
- 3) Is there, when appropriate, a variety of evidence being used?

Of less importance, but not unimportant, are grammar, neatness, and careful citation practices. Occasionally errors here are forgivable, many of them will attract a penalty.

When you are leading discussion, your skills at oral delivery will be assessed. You will also be assessed on how you decide to structure the seminar and how you in fact do while doing so.

On the final examination, you will be marked on the quality of thought you display (and not on presentation, provided I can read the script).

## **Submission and return of work**

The Directed Writings, Declaration of Research Essay Topic and Bibliography, and Research Essay will be submitted on line. The longest marking will ever take will be three weeks and two weeks will be more usual. Assessments will be returned on line.

## **Extensions and penalties**

Late work will more than likely be penalised 2% per day it is late. Work that is excessive in length is liable to incur a penalty also. Students wishing to avoid penalties for late work will have to present documentation and are best advised to make arrangements for an extension beforehand (if at all possible). If a student submits late work, they can anticipate considerable delays in having their work returned to them and they are also liable to receive minimal comment. The final due date for all work exclusive of the final examination is Friday, 14 October.

## Set texts

- Averil Cameron, *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity: AD395-700* (The Routledge History of the Ancient World) 2nd Edition. Routledge
- Michael Maas, *Readings in Late Antiquity: A Sourcebook* (Routledge Sourcebooks for the Ancient World) 2nd Edition. Routledge

Both text books are available from Vic Books ([www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz))

All other readings will be appearing on Blackboard.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

## Student feedback

As this is a new course, there has been no feedback on it.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)