CLST 277: The World of Late Antiquity  
Spring Semester 2017  
Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9:30-10:45pm | Section A04  
Dr. David Lambert  
Email: dlambert1@luc.edu  
Office Hours: Mondays 11:45am-12:45pm, or by appointment

Course Description  
This course is a survey of the history and culture of Late Antiquity – the age of the end of the Roman empire in the West and the transition from the ancient world to the middle ages. It covers the period from about 250 AD to about 570 AD: from the “Third Century Crisis” which almost brought about the fall of the Roman Empire to the age of the emperor Justinian, encompassing the recovery of the Roman Empire, its adoption of Christianity under the emperor Constantine, its division into eastern and western empires, the fall of the western empire in the fifth century and its replacement by early medieval kingdoms, and the attempted reconquest of the west by Justinian. As well as political history, the course also covers major developments in the history of religion during late antiquity, and in late Roman and early medieval culture.

This course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Roman or early medieval history.

Learning Outcomes  
This course is a survey of the history of the Roman and post-Roman world from the mid 3rd century to the mid 6th century AD. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the events, institutions, trends, major historical figures, and significant political, cultural and social accomplishments of the age.
- Show awareness of the problems and debates concerning key themes from this period of history.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the working of historical mechanisms by scrutinizing, evaluating and critically analyzing the source material, and being sensitive to the problems of interpreting evidence.

Required Text / Materials  
- Reader

Attendance Policy  
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy:

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

**Evaluation**
Final grade assessments will be based on the combination of two exams, one mid-term and one final, and one essay concerning a topic of free choice and based on primary sources and secondary literature. A small percentage of each student’s grade will be derived from attendance and participation.

- Midterm Exam 30%
- Essay 30%
- Final Exam 30%
- Participation 10%

The two exams test knowledge and understanding of the material in the textbook (Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*), the topics dealt with in the lectures and seminars, and the additional literature prescribed for each class. The textbook provides a general outline of the developments of Roman history, society and culture in the period.

**Grading**
94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Written work and examinations meriting the grade of “A” (excellent) must:

- address the assigned question or topic directly and intelligently;
- demonstrate a careful and considered reading of the texts at hand;
- present a lucid thesis and a reasoned argument in its defense;
- use correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction;
- make appropriate use of quotations from the texts;
- reveal thoughtfulness, originality and insight.

Written work and examinations awarded the grade of “B” (good) adequately fulfil a majority of these criteria, with areas of improvement indicated by grading remarks and comments.

The grade of “C” (average) is given when written work and examinations fail to meet most criteria, therefore indicating to the student that an appointment should be made with the professor, before the next assignment, to discuss methods for improvement.
Finally, the grade of “D” is assigned to written work and examinations that are unacceptable, according to the criteria outlined above, in which case an appointment must be made with the professor and arrangements determined for re-submitting the assignments in an acceptable form.

The Essay
Students are free to choose their own essay topic (within the general subject matter of the course), in consultation with the instructor. All essay topics must be approved by the instructor, and students must produce a rough draft of their essay for review before final submission of the essay.

Students are expected to base their essay on suitable reading, consisting of relevant primary sources and appropriate modern scholarly literature (books, journal articles, scholarly reference works, whether in printed or online form). They must show that they have made a reasonable effort to read and engage with any reading for their essay suggested by the instructor.

This semester’s timetable is as follows: deadline for essay proposals, Thursday 16 March (Wk 8); deadline for submission of draft, Thursday 6 April (Wk 11); final submission deadline, Thursday 20 April (Wk 13). Essays submitted after the final deadline will be penalized by a grade.

Essays have a word-limit of 3,000 words, including footnotes/endnotes.

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism according to the LUC Student Handbook.

Disabilities
Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact me the first week of class, as well as the Senior Academic Services Advisor.
Class Schedule

Week 1: The Third Century Crisis


Week 2: The New Empire: Diocletian


Week 3: The New Empire: Constantine


Week 4: Church and State


Week 5: The Reign of Julian

- Mar Marcos, “‘He Forced with Gentleness’: Emperor Julian’s Attitude to Religious Coercion’, *Antiquité Tardive* 17 (2009), 191-204.

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Week 6: **The Late Roman State**


Week 7: **Economy and Society**


Week 8: **Religion and Culture in the Age of Augustine and Jerome**

- Alan Cameron, ‘The last pagans of Rome’, in W.V. Harris (ed.), *The Transformation of Vrbs Roma in Late Antiquity* (JRA Supplementary Series 33; Portsmouth RI, 1999), 109-121.

Week 9: **The Disintegration of the Western Empire**

- Peter Heather, ‘The Huns and the End of the Roman Empire in Western Europe’, *English Historical Review* 110 (1995), 4-41.

Week 10: **Constantinople and the East**

- Fergus Millar, *A Greek Roman Empire: Power and Belief under Theodosius II*, 408-450 (Berkeley 2006), 39-83.

Week 11: **Justinian: the Empire Strikes Back**


**Week 12: Urban Change and the End of Antiquity?**

• Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 408-440, 466-496.