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BS 720 Roman Hellenism

M. Robert Mulholland

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PERSPECTIVE: Earliest Christianity emerged from its Palestinian Jewish womb into the complex political, economic, religious, philosophical, sociological dynamics of the Roman Hellenistic culture of the Roman Empire. From its initial outreach, Christianity addressed its Gospel to the perceptual/experiential horizon of that culture and its writings reflect its interplay with that culture. The perceptual/experiential horizon of our life in Christ and our study of His Word may be profoundly enriched through out involvement with the perceptual/experiential horizon of the Roman Hellenistic culture. It is my prayerful intention to seek to be all the Lord purposes for me to be in leading this class so that such an enrichment can be yours in Him; and it is my prayerful hope that you will seek to allow the Lord to so guide your study and participation that His full purpose for your enrichment might be fulfilled in this course.

PURPOSE: We will seek to allow the Lord to actualize His purposes for us in this course through a study of the history and life of the Roman Hellenistic world and an examination of the carious dynamics of its culture.

PARTICULARS: I prayerfully expect that your faithful stewardship and discipline in this course will be used of the Lord to enable you to acquire the following knowledge and ability:

1. Development of a comprehension of the history of the Mediterranean basin from 338 B.C. to 324 A. D.
 - a. The rise and spread of Hellenistic Kingdoms
 - b. The emergence of Rome
 - c. The Roman Empire until Constantine
2. Understanding of the political, economic, sociological, philosophical, cultural, and religious dynamics of the Mediterranean basin from 338 B.C. to 324 A>D>, with special emphasis upon the period from 200 B.C. to 100 A.D.
3. Ability to relate this comprehension and understanding to the interpretation of the New Testament.

PROCEDURES: The following will provide some of the scholarly disciplines of loving obedience and stewardship through which I trust the Lord will enable us to actualize His purposes for the course:

1. Texts: E. Ferguson, *Background of Early Christianity*, (2nd ed.) **(F)**
H. Koester, *Introduction to the New Testament, Vol. 1, History, **(K)**
Culture, and Religion of the Hellenistic Age*
Marvin Meyer, *The Ancient Mysteries **(M)***
2. Preparation:
 - a. It is hoped that you will enter into a covenant of prayer for the class and the course.
 - b. It is urged that each period of individual study be started with prayer, interlaced with prayer, and dedicated to God in prayer at its close.
 - c. It is expected that you will be a faithful steward of time in two areas:
 - i. Consistent participation in class sessions
 - ii. Commit at least two hours to the Lord for prayer and study in preparation for each class hour.

- c. It is expected that you will come to class fully prepared through disciplined prayer and study so as to be all God wants you to be in the class session.
- d. It is presumed that you will exhibit graduate level competence in comprehension of reading, integration of learning, and presentation of understanding.

3. Class Sessions:

- a. The first portion of the semester (History) will consist of lectures and discussion generated by outside readings and lecture materials.
- b. The second portion of the semester (Culture) will consist of reports by participants, interaction with reports, discussions engendered by individual projects and outside readings, analysis of primary materials, and applications to New Testament interpretation.
- c. It is expected that as a member of the seminar you will participate fully in discussion and interaction, contributing insights and knowledge gained from your reading and research.

4. Presentation of Research:

- a. Class presentations: You may be responsible for leading the seminar learning experience for a module during the second portion (Culture) of the semester. This should entail a presentation of your research project in the following format: 1) Historical sketch of development(s), 2) Major features and their significance, 3) New Testament manifestations, 4) Pictures/slides/primary sources if possible.
- b. Written Presentations: Your project will be submitted in appropriate written form by the last meeting of the seminar.

5. Grade Contract:

Regular class attendance, fulfillment of the assignments listed under TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, will be considered "essential achievement of course objectives" and earn a grade of "C" (Cf. Catalog, p. 28). Anyone desiring a higher grade will enter into a contract for the desired grade in which they set forth the additional learning experience(s) they intend to fulfill for the grade desired. Possible options would include (but not be limited to): research papers, additional readings, extended book reviews, exams, lesson plans, charts, etc. This is an opportunity for you to design your own learning experience in an area and a mode which will be of most benefit to you in your life and ministry.

6. PERFORMANCE:

All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grade contract. Any work not measuring up to the level of the contracted grade will be returned for reworking and resubmission. You are urged to consult with me if, at any time, you believe that you have not been fairly or accurately evaluated. Faithful, consistent, obedient stewardship of time and work, in which you seek to be faithful to the Lord's purposes for you in the course, should result in high quality work and corresponding evaluations.

In order to maintain integrity with those who are faithful to the learning covenant, the following actions will govern attendance and submission of work:

- Up to 10% unexcused absences -- 1 grade-level reduction (A/A-)
- 10 to 20% unexcused absences -- 2 grade-level reduction (A/B+) Etc.
- Late submission of work --1 grade-level reduction/week

7. The quality of oral and written projects should reflect work done as unto the Lord for they will reflect the cumulative results of the depth and faithfulness of your stewardship of time and study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The following list is neither exhaustive nor inclusive. It is merely a starting point for study and research.

Web Sites:

General links and bibliographies:

<http://eikon.divinity.yale.edu/links.htm>
<http://www.ntgateway.com/judaica.htm>
<http://argos.evansville.edu/>
<http://www.julen.net/aw/>
<http://iam.classics.unc.edu/>
<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/topsites.htm>

Women and Gender in the Ancient World:

<http://www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Classics/biblio/christianity.html>

Ancient World Cultures:

<http://eawc.evansville.edu/index.htm>
<http://www.ntgateway.com/ancient/>

Art and Archaeology:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/art&arch.html>

Roman History:

<http://www.roman-empire.net/>
http://www.exovedate.com/ancient_timeline_one.html
<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/>

Roman Law:

<http://www.jura.uni-sb.de/Rechtsgeschichte/lus.Romanum/english.html>

Roman Life:

<http://ireland.iol.ie/~coolmine/typ/romans/intro.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Stage/3591/>
<http://www.mts.net/~aisensee/>
<http://members.aol.com/Donnclass/Romelife.html>
<http://victorian.fortunecity.com/lion/373/roman/roman.html>

Roman Art and Architecture:

<http://harpy.uccs.edu/roman/>
<http://www.2020site.org/rome/>

Gladiatorial Games:

<http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/classics/gladiator/>
<http://abacus.bates.edu/~mimber/Rciv/gladiator.htm>

Pompeii:

<http://harpy.uccs.edu/roman/html/pompeiislides.html>

Roman Roads:

<http://www.viadomitia.org/uk.html>

Slavery:

<http://www.ucd.ie/~classics/96/Madden96.html>

Tacitus' Histories:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Tacitus/histories.html>

Suetonius' Lives of the Caesars:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/suet-tiberius-rolfe.html>

Primary Sources:

- R. S. Bagnall/P. Derow, *Greek Historical Documents: The Hellenistic Period*, DF 235.A1 B33
- E. Barker, *From Alexander to Constantine: Passages and Documents Illustrating the History of Social and Political Ideas 336 B. C.--A. D. 337*
- Dittenburger, *Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum*, I-IV, HW 43D 636
- N. Lewis/M. Reinhold, *Roman Civilization: Sourcebook I: Republic; Sourcebook II: Empire*, HX 56 L587
- Loeb Classical Library (Greek:English--BR 84.5 L882 [])
- Anthology [AN 86] 5 vol.
- Dio Rom. Hist. 175-225 A.D. 9 vol. [C 273]. Grandson of Dio Chrysostom Phil. Discourses 40-120 A.D. [D 62]
- Diodorus Siculus 3 vol. Historian 1st. B.C. [D6203]
- Greek Literary Papyri [G 819]
- Select Papyri 2 vol. [H 911]
- Lyra Graeca [L995] 3 vol.
- Pausanias [P 287] 5 vol. Description of Greece 2nd. A.D.
- Plutarch Lives 11 vol. Historian/Philosopher 2nd. A.D.
- Moralia 10 vol. [P746]
- Polybius 6 vol. Historian 150 B.C. [P 768]
- Strabo Geographer 1st. B.C.--1st. A.D. [St 81]
(Latin:English--BS 85 L822 [])
- Appian 4 vol. Rom. Historian 2nd. A.D. [Ap 49]
- Apuleius Satirist [Ap 94]
- Cicero 11 vol. Phil/Orator 1st. B.C. [C 485]
- Ovid 4 vol. Writer 1st. B.C.--1st. A.D. [Ov 4]
- Petronius Satiricon 1st. A.D. [P 448]
- Pliny (Elder) 3 vol. Natural Hist. 1st. A.D. [P 718N]
- Pliny (Younger) 2 vol. Letters 1st-2nd. A.D. Nephew of Elder [P 7184]
- Quintillian 4 vol. Educ./Culture 1st. A.D. [Q 45]
- Seneca [Se 56] 3 vol. Letters 1st. A.D. Brother of Gallio
- Suetonius 2 vol. Historian 2nd. A.D. [Su 25]
- Tacitus 3 vol. Historian 1st-2nd. A.D. [T 118]

Of Special Interest:

- Apuleius, The Golden Ass PA 6156 A7 1935
- Aristides, Sacred Tales
- Lucian, Peregrinus
Alexander the False Prophet
Syrian Goddess
- Philostratus, Life of Apollonius of Tyana PA 3612 P4 L5 1969
- Plutarch, Isis and Osiris
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On the Decline of the Oracles

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- A. D. Leeman, *Bibliographica Latina Selecta*

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D. M. Scholer, *A Basic Bibliographic Guide for New Testament Exegesis*, Ch. 11.
(Ref) Z7772 LI S35 1973

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Interpreters' Dictionary of the Bible (4 vol./Supplement)
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The Oxford Classical Dictionary (Ref) DE5 09 1970
H. H. Scullard, *Shorter Atlas of the Classical World* (Ref) DE29 S393

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W. Ramsay, *The Historical Geography of Asia Minor*, HT R 148
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Culture in General:

J. Carcupino, *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*, HX 56 C 177
DeCoulanges and Fustel, *The Ancient City* JC 51 F95 1901
E. R. Dodds, *Pagan and Christian in an Age of Anxiety* BL 53 D6
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A Guide to Greek and Roman Life, HV B 777
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W. Jaeger, *Early Christianity and Greek Paideia* BR 128 G8 J3
Paideia: The Ideals of Greek Culture, 4 vol. HW 56J175

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A. N. Sherwin-White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament* BS
2390 S45
A. Wardman, *Religion and Statecraft Among the Romans*

Literature

Duff, *A Literary History of Rome in the Golden Age*
A Literary History of Rome in the Silver Age

Art and Architecture

Art in the Ancient World, Ref. N5340.A 7713 1981a
R. B. Bandinelli, *Rome: The Center of Power*, N 5760.B 513
G. Becath, *The Art of Ancient Greece and Rome*, q YE 50 B 386
I. G. Landels, *Engineering in the Ancient World*
C. C. Vermeule, *Roman Imperial Art in Greece and Asia Minor* N5851 V4

Religion and Culture

U. Bianchi, *The Greek Mysteries*
S. G. F. Brandon, *Man and God in Art and Ritual* N72 R4 B72
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J. Godwin, *Mystery Religions in the Ancient World* BL 610 G63 1981
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Ancient Roman Religion BL 801 G7
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97 G75
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J. M. Hull, *Hellenistic Magic and the Synoptic Tradition*
A. Hus, *Greek and Roman Religion*, OX 22 H 95
K. Kerényi, *The Religion of the Greeks and Romans*, OX 22 K 454
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A History of Greek Religion BL 781 N53
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Essays on Religion and the Ancient World BL 50 N56 1972
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Celsus: *On the True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians*, Trans. R.J. Hoffman BR 160.3 C4413 1987

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E. Zeller, *Outlines of the History of Greek Philosophy* B173 Z52 1890

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1/6	Introduction	F 1-18, K 1-15
	Rome and Greece prior to 338 B.C.	K 39-41, 281-292
	Alexander and the Diadochi (338-301 B.C.)	
1/7	Roman Conquest of Italy (338-275 B.C.)	F 19-22, K 16-30
	The Hellenistic Kingdoms (301-198 B.C.)	
	Roman Conquest of Western Med (275-201 B.C.)	
1/8	Decline of Hellenistic Kingdoms (198-50 B.C.)	F 22-23
	Roman Conquest of Eastern Med (201-50 B.C.)	
	From Republic to Empire (50-30 B.C.)	K 292-307
1/9	Roman Empire (30 B.C. to 135 A.D.)	K 307-320, F 23-38
	Roman Empire (135-324 A.D.)	K 320-322, F 38-39

During the two weeks between sessions, complete your reading of the texts, do your research on your project and be ready to present your project during the final week of the class.

1/27	Political Structures and Bureaucracy	K 31-38, 322-335; F 39-52, 60-63
1/28	Economy	F 74-88, K 322-335
1/29	Society	F 52-60, 63-74, 91-98, 131-136
1/30	Philosophy and Religions	K 141-204, 362-389; F 137-298; M All
1/31	Literature, Education, Art, Drama	K 93-140, 336-361; F 88-90, 98-131