



Fall Semester 2017----3 Units Credit
Section 01--CRN **80036**: Online course
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Athletics, spectator sports, theatre, and other pastimes have become a consuming activity in our own time. How did these and other diversions develop? Are their antecedents to be found in the ancient world, especially in Greece and Rome? In this seminar, we will investigate the cultural roots and evolution of many types of entertainment, especially the Greek and Roman games, as well as theatre. Remember the term culture comes from the Latin word *cultus*, so that some of these activities have their origins in religious festivals or rites. We will also look into the social, economic and political dimensions of entertainment in antiquity. While we will be concentrating on Greece and Rome, we will also take glances of possible parallel developments in China, Egypt, Phoenicia, Byzantium, and elsewhere. Finally we will study how these may have influenced modern entertainments and recreation.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

- 1. Participation:** Students are to regularly participate in discussion forums and participate actively respond to all questions in those forums, as well as comment on the replies of fellow members of the seminar. Participation is mandatory. There will be five discussion forums in the Fall Semester. The questions come from readings from the five books under review, as well as shorter secondary and primary source readings. Absences from the forum without substantiating excuses will automatically lower students' grades.
- 2. Four book reviews (1500 to 2000 words each).** Each student will write one book review on each of the five books assigned for this course. Each student will analyze the author's views on the topic of this seminar. Each Book review will be worth 100 points for a total of 400 points.
- 3. Course evaluation and grades.** Evaluation of student performance will be based upon the following criteria:

- a. student participation in discussion forums** (12 discussion forums-3 per module, 50 points per for a total 600 points—or 60% of the course grade]).
- b. the Book Reviews** (100 points per review for a total of 400 points—or 40% of the course grade).
- c. Completion of discussion forums and book review will be due at the end of each course module (three week period).**

POSSIBLE READINGS FOR REVIEW (these and others will be available for loan in digital form):

- David Potter, *The Victor's Crown: A History of Ancient Sport from Homer to Byzantium* (Oxford University Press, 2007).
- Stephen Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics* (University of California Press, 2007).
- David C. Young, *A Brief History of the Olympic Games* (Blackwell, 2004).
- *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Theatre*, Marianne McDonald and J . Michael Walton, eds. (Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- H.H.Scullard, *Festivals and Ceremonies of the Roman Republic* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1981).
- George Jennison, *Animals for Show and Pleasure in Ancient Rome* Manchester University Press, 1937).
- Daniel P. Mannix, *We who are about to die* (Ballantine Books, 1958).=
- Thomas Wiedemann, *Emperors and Gladiators* (Routledge, 1992).

READINGS AND DISCUSSION FORUMS WILL BE UP SHORTLY

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS REQUIRED BY THE UNIVERSITY. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN ATTENDING THIS CLASS. A DETAILED LIST OF THESE CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLWING LINK:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>