

University of North Texas  
Department of History

HIST 4260.003: Rome's Jewish Wars and the Roman Near East

Tue.-Thurs., 14:00-15:20, WH Room 215

Dr. Chet

Office hours: Tuesday, 13:00 (room #235), and by appointment (369-8927, [guychet@unt.edu](mailto:guychet@unt.edu)).

The expansion of Rome's sphere of influence to the east brought it into open competition with the Parthian Empire, which spanned from Arabia and the Caspian Sea to India. Judaea – an independent Jewish kingdom from 160 to 63 BC – soon came under Roman control, as a client kingdom, eventually becoming a Roman province (6 AD). During the semester, the class will examine the sources of Roman power in the East, as well as the military clashes that shaped Rome's administrative expansion into the Near East, focusing primarily on Judaea and the two Jewish Revolts (66 AD and 132 AD). Similarly, the class will examine the consequences of Rome's Jewish Wars for the Roman eastern front with the Parthians, and for Jews and Christians in Judaea/Palestina and throughout Empire.

Students are expected to perform all reading assignments and attend all classes. Course books are available at the book store and online (half.com, bestbookbuys.com etc.).

During the course of the semester, students will submit two mid-term exams as well as a final exam (if a student cannot attend an exam, he/she should contact me *in advance* in order to arrange a make up exam). I grade on a scale of 0 to 100, assigning letter grades in the following fashion: A (96-100), A- (90-95), B+ (86-89), B (83-85), B- (80-82), C+ (76-79), C (73-75), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59). In grading the writing assignments, I will pay close attention to both substance and form (grammar, spelling, and clarity). In evaluating substance, I will examine whether the author has demonstrated a critical, historical understanding of the material, and whether he/she has presented and substantiated a thesis (a historical argument). In order to compute the final course grade, I will add the relative values of each student's number grades for the two mid-terms (30% each) and the final examination (40%).

Students with special circumstances covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation, Suite 318 A, University Union Building, and also inform the instructor of the class. Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the special needs of students with disabilities where such adjustments are necessary to provide equality of educational access.

Texts:

Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero*.

Schedule:

Week 1: Judaea and the Jews

Week 2: Roman Expansion in Italy

Week 3: Roman Warfare

Week 4: The Republican Empire

Week 5: The Eastern Problem, Pompey and Judaea

First mid-term exam (on Scullard, imperial map and classroom material) [Feb. 17]

Week 6: The Roman Civil Wars

Week 7: The Augustan Principate: Consolidating Roman Power in the East

Week 8: Rome's Parthian Front Under Nero

Week 9: The Great Revolt of AD 66: Challenging Roman Rule

Week 10: The Collapse of the Great Revolt: The Empire Strikes Back

Second mid-term (March 31)

Week 11: The Bar Kokhba Revolt (AD 132): Hope and Success

Week 12: The Bar Kokhba Revolt: Defeat and Despair

Week 13-14: Palaestina and the Roman East

May 10<sup>th</sup> (Tue. 14:00): Final exam