

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1984-85

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572 (section 1)	Undergraduate Studies in European History	Mr. Clover

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The topic: Magic, Apocalypse and the Philosophy in the Roman Empire. Between the first and fourth century A.D. the lands from Britain to Egypt and from the lower Danube to Morocco were uncharacteristically united under a single government. The Roman Peace brought prosperity and anxiety to the inhabitants of the Mediterranean Basin. This colloquium will consider the fruits of anxiety: magical incantations, religious oracles, Christian and non-Christian proclamations of imminent doom, and a bewildering mixture of practical and mystical philosophies. As students study individual instances of philosophy, apocalypse and magic in Roman imperial society, they will also consider social scientists' workson the value and function of these endeavors.

FORMAT

The weekly meeting times (Mondays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm) will be used primarily to present reports on assigned topics. Each report will take up approximately one hour. Students should plan to use one-half of the hour to present the report, so that the other half-hour can be spent in discussion of the topic at hand. A schedule of reports should be available by the second week of the term.

While participants are preparing their reports, they will select a term paper topic -- preferably one which concerns the subject of the colloquium-- by the third week of the term. They will hand in a first draft of the term paper by Friday of the ninth week of the term, and a second draft (revised in accordance with the instructor's comments and the student's own second thoughts) by the day and hour assigned in the timetable for the final examination. The suggested maximum length of the second draft: between ten and twenty pages.

GRADING SYSTEM

First draft of paper 30%, second draft 35%, discussion section reports 35% of final grade.

READINGS

\*#\$ - Dodds, E.R. PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN IN AN AGE OF ANXIETY  
&%\$ - Cary, M. & Scullard H.H. A HISTORY OF ROME DOWN TO THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE. New York: St. Martin's Press.

\* required purchase available at the bookstores; & optional purchase (bookstores); % available 3-hour reserve in H.C. White (no. 1191); # available 3-day reserve in H.C. White (no. 1191); \$ available but non-circulating in History Library (4257 Humanities, weekdays 8:30-11:30 am, 1-3:30 pm.)