Classics 186  Talloires, Summer 2018

Gauls, Greeks, and Romans and the Shaping of French Identity

Course Description

The historical identity of France owes much to the contact, interaction and accommodation that took place between the peoples of ancient Gaul, the Greeks who settled along its Mediterranean shore, and the Romans who conquered and ruled Gaul for almost five hundred years. This course will explore this rich process of cultural creation and identity formation through an exploration of the following questions: Who were the Gauls? How did they express their identity culturally, ecologically politically, socially in cult and ritual, and in material culture and productivity? Why did the Greeks migrate to and settle in southern Gaul? What did it mean to be a Greek in Gaul? How were the Greek poleis or city-states different if at all from those in Greece, southern Italy and Sicily, and Asia Minor? How did Greeks and Gauls interact and find a middle ground? How did the Romans become involved in Gaul? How did they engage with the Greeks and Gauls? Who were the Romans in Gaul? Why did Rome eventually conquer all of Gaul? And how did Roman, Greek, and Gallic culture combine to shape the early identity and cultural legacy of France?

To answer these many questions, the course will draw on the richness of recent archaeological discoveries, the diverse accounts of ancient writers, the exciting new research and analyses of modern historians and archaeologists, and a study tour of the great Gallo-Roman town, Vienne. The course will begin with an overview of the history of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Roman Republic and Empire.

Readings

Books:

Christopher Kelly, The Roman Empire. A Short Introduction (Oxford)

Greg Woolf, **Becoming Roman. The Origins of Provincial Civilization in Gaul** (Cambridge)

Tacitus, The Agricola and Germania (Penguin)

Additional Readings posted on Trunk

Evaluation

There will be three equally weighted essay exams based and equally weighted (20% each). Class participation counts (20%). In addition, I would you to produce a blog/journal (20%). The blog/journal should record your reflections in writing, images, etc. on the readings and lectures, in particular what you are learning, how it is changing your thinking about history, ancient Gaul, France, your experience in France and Talloires. I will ask you to submit your blog/journal electronically at various intervals of my choosing. What I am most interested in is your thinking. I may also call on you to read from your blog/journal in class. You can also use the blog/journal to describe ancient sites you may visit elsewhere in France or Europe during your time at Talloires. You don’t need to set up blog on a website, but if you find that more amenable, please feel free to do so.
Lectures and Discussions

1. An Overview of the Roman Empire         Kelly, Chs 1- 2
2. Pre-Roman Europe                             Wells, Peoples of Temperate Europe, Witt, Ch 26, the Celts
3. Late Iron Age Gaul                             Greeks and Celts, Excerpts Caesar’s Gallic Wars, De Bibracte A Augustodunum
4. First Examination                              
5. Roman War and Conquest                        Tacitus, Agricola and Germania
6. Roman-ness and The Gauls                    Woolf, Preface, Chapters 1-2
7. Roman-ness, A Case Study                    Woolf, Chapter 3
8. Mapping Cultural Change in Gaul              Woolf, chapters 4
9. Making Roman towns                           Woolf, Chapter 5
10. Rural life and production                   Woolf, Chapter 6, Roman Europe Chapter 6
11. A Consumer Culture?                         Woolf, Chapter 7 Kelly Ch 6
12. Second Examination                           
13. Roman Religion and Gaul                    Roman Europe Chapter 7, Woolf Chapter 8
14. The Late Roman Empire                       Roman Europe 9-10
15. Gaul in the Late Roman Empire               Woolf, Ch 9, Kelly Ch. 4
16. Christian Gaul                              
17. The life of A Gallic Saint                  SULPICIUS SEVERUS ON THE LIFE OF ST. MARTIN
18. The End of Roman Gaul                       Gregory of Tours, also Geary, Before France and Germany
19. The Last of the Romans                      Desiderius of Cahors,
20. Final Examination                            