

# MASTERS OF SMALL WORLDS

## Slavery in the Roman Household

OFFERED FOR SUMMER SESSION II

CLAS 4300/6300

Monday - Friday - 1:30 - 4:15 p.m.



A COURSE TAUGHT BY  
2015 FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR

**Dr. Kate Cooper**  
(MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY)

This course will explore the Roman Empire as a slave society, with a special focus on how the central role of slave labor influenced the Roman household. Focusing on the period from 100 BC to 450 AD, we will try to understand whether there was a distinctively Roman way of structuring slave-master relations, and how slavery affected the household both as a social space and as a productive unit within the Roman economy.

We will begin by considering comparative material on slavery in ancient and modern societies, and then look closely at the distinctive structures of the Roman family, looking at the institution of *patria potestas* which created distinct yet not entirely different roles for children and slaves. How did wives, children, and slaves find opportunities for agency within this way of doing things? And how did social, political, and religious factors change the nature of Roman slavery across time?



**KATE COOPER** is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Manchester. She writes and teaches on the world of the Mediterranean in the Roman period, with a special interest in daily life and the family, religion, gender and social identity, and the inter-connected problems of martyrdom, resistance movements, and religious violence. Her most recent book, *Band of Angels: The Forgotten World of Early Christian Women*, is published by Atlantic Press (London) and Overlook Press (New York). Previous titles include *The Virgin and the Bride* (Harvard) and *The Fall of the Roman Household* (Cambridge).

In recent years, she has renewed a long-standing interest in the problem of religion and violence. She is currently holder of a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship (2012-15) for a project on *The Early Christian Martyr Acts: A New Approach to Ancient Heroes of Resistance*.

Professor Cooper is a frequent contributor to television and radio programs on the ancient world, and her blog, which focuses on connections between the ancient and modern world, *Kateantiquity* ([www.kateantiquity.com](http://www.kateantiquity.com)), has readers in over 100 countries. She can be found on Twitter as @kateantiquity.

*This course is made possible through the Summer 2015*

**FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM (FISP)**

The *Franklin International Scholars Program* promotes an interdisciplinary learning environment on the UGA campus, as well as substantive faculty research collaborations with partner institutions throughout the world. In this sense Franklin College shares the mission of UGA's Office of International Education, and **FISP** is a key element of that mission. Teaching a class allows international scholars to rehearse their research agendas before an enthusiastic and critical audience of UGA students. As a means of promoting interdisciplinarity, when possible the international scholars teach split-level graduate/undergraduate classes, or cross-listed courses at either level.

**SUPPORT FOR FISP IN 2015 HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY:**

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and the Department of Classics, University of Georgia