

**CCI 490 Fall 2017**

**MW 3:30-4:45**

**Le Blanc**

**The Empire Strikes Back: resistance and revolt in the ancient world**

A course tracing evidence for resistance and revolt, particularly in colonial contexts, in the ancient Mediterranean. We will discuss active (revolt, uprisings, riots), nonviolent (protests, civil disobedience), everyday (foot-dragging, sabotage, private non-compliance) and cultural (persistence of local traditions) forms of resistance, drawn mainly from the Greek and Roman worlds. Case studies will include: the Ionian Revolt, the Athenian siege of Melos, resistance to Alexander the Great in Bactria, the First Jewish Revolt, the Rebellions of Tacfarinas, Boudicca, and Vercingetorix, and resistance to Roman anti-Christian policies. We will use both literary and archaeological evidence to study how and why people revolt, and to examine the unique socio-historical contexts that led to acts of resistance in the ancient world. We will consider a range of questions, including: What do we mean by "resistance"? How can we identify resistance in the archaeological record? What happened to people who resisted? Were any resistance movements effective? How do we uncover nonviolent and everyday resistance in the ancient world?