

Donathan Taylor, Ph.D.
Rupert N. Richardson Professor of History



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Courses Taught

Research and Publications

Portfolio

Travel Scrapbook

Donathan Taylor completed a Ph.D. in European History with a concentration in Ancient Mediterranean Studies at *Fulbright College* of the *University of Arkansas* in 1997, with additional graduate study in Art History from the *University of Georgia* and *Rice University*. His dissertation, *The Logistics of the Roman Army in North Africa*, was written under the supervision of the distinguished classical scholar, Donald W. Engels.

Dr. Taylor's primary discipline is Military History with emphasis on ancient Roman warfare. In addition to his classroom work, Taylor has written on a variety of topics pertaining to the ancient Mediterranean world. Included among his published work is a chapter in *The Routledge History of Terrorism* entitled "Pre-modern Terrorism: The Cases of the Sicarii and the Assassins" with French historian Yannick Gautron. In 2022, Pen and Sword Publishers, UK, published a revised paperback edition of Taylor's 2016 book, *Roman Empire at War*, and the release of its companion volume, a paperback edition of the author's 2017 book *Roman Republic at War*, arrived on bookshelves in May of 2025.

Professor Taylor joined the faculty of *Parker College* at *Hardin-Simmons University* in 1995, and previously served as chairman of the *Department of History* from 2000-2010 before resuming these duties in 2019. He presently holds the R. N. Richardson Chair of History, and serves as Chairman of the *Department of History, Philosophy, and Political Science*.

Over the years Dr. Taylor's travel and research have taken him to countries throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, including such locales as Paestum, Selinunte, Knossos, Hadrian's Wall, the summit of Mt. Vesuvius, Philippi, and the Valley of the Temples.

Education

Donathan Taylor completed seventeen years of university academic studies in 1997 with 302 hours, having earned a total of 120 hours in his discipline, including 87 graduate hours in history and art history. Additionally, his program of doctoral study stipulated language studies, and proficiency examinations were mandated in French and Latin in anticipation of his chosen area of doctoral research. He has also studied Classical Greek, Koine Greek, and German. All degrees and university course work were completed *in residence*.

Teaching Statement

The opportunity to develop an inspirational relationship with my students and make a positive difference in their education are two of the primary reasons I chose to enter the teaching profession. I desire to be a part of their educational enlightenment and believe that the study of history is critical to their understanding of the human experience. As a historian it is paramount that I strive to teach students to think independently, to ask hard questions about themselves and the community around them, and to explore the significance of modern society within the context of the global past.

Courses Taught

Graduate Seminars 1995-2021: Seminar in Medieval History; Seminar in Ancient History; Special Topics Tutorials; Directed Studies Tutorials.

Graduate Lecture Courses, 1995-2021: History of the Middle Ages; Ancient Greece and Rome to 133 B.C.; Renaissance and Reformation; European Imperialism; Modern Britain; Greece and Rome at War; Rome: Republic to Empire, 146 B.C. – A.D. 476.

Undergraduate upper division: The Middle Ages; Ancient Greece and Rome to 133 B.C. Renaissance and Reformation; European Imperialism; Modern Britain; Greece and Rome at War; Rome: Republic to Empire, 146 B.C. - A.D. 476; From Caesar to King.

Undergraduate lower division: United States History to 1876; Western Civilization to 1550; Western *Civilization* Since 1550; World Civilization to 1500; World Civilization, 1500-1900.

Course descriptions for undergraduate upper division courses:

4099 Greece and Rome at War. A study of the theory and practice of warfare from the classical age of Greece to the end of the Roman Empire. Readings include Thucydides, Caesar, Livy, Polybius, and Ammianus. Emphasis will be placed of the evolution of war in the West, including the changing nature of infantry tactics, hoplite warfare, the making of the Roman army, and the role of cavalry in Late Antiquity.

4099 From Caesar to King. A study of the British history from Caesar's invasions to the end of the Plantagenet Dynasty. Emphasis will be placed on the social, political, religious, and intellectual developments on the island from the Roman Imperial era to the death of Richard II. Attention will be given to the areas of government, law, philosophy, religious thought, and the art of war.

4354 Ancient Greece and Rome to 133 B.C. A study of Ancient Greece and Rome from the Mycenaean Age to the emergence of the Roman Empire. Emphasis will be placed on the social, political, religious, and intellectual developments in the classical world from the Hellenic period of Greek history to the beginnings of the Late Roman Republic. Attention will be given to the

contributions of these two cultures in the areas of government, scientific development, philosophy, religious thought, and the art of war.

4355 Rome: Republic to Empire, 146 B.C. - A.D. 476. A study of Roman history from the Late Republic to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Emphasis will be placed on the social, political, religious, and intellectual developments in the Roman world from the late first century B.C. to the end of Roman political authority in Western Europe. Attention will be given to the contributions of this culture in the areas of government, scientific development, philosophy, religious thought, and the art of war.

4375 The Middle Ages. Study of the creation of Europe from the fusion of the Roman world with the frontier cultures of northern Europe. Emphasis will be placed on the social and political evolution of the region from 400-1300, with attention to such topics as the rise of new technology, the impact of the Roman Catholic Church on society, the Crusades against Islam, and the ethos of chivalry as evidence of the emergence of a new expansionist civilization.

4352 Renaissance and Reformation (Also see CHST 4352). Study of the impact of medieval institutions and thought on European society from 1300-1650 and subsequent flowering of culture during those years. Major focus will be on basic social, economic, and political changes in Europe during the period including the revival of classical learning and explosion of creative activity in the arts; changes in popular piety, political thought, and religious representation; and the religious crisis in Europe that culminated in Protestant revolt and Catholic Reformation.

4361 Modern Britain. A survey of the history of Britain, the empire, and commonwealth since 1688, with emphasis on twentieth century England. Special attention will be given to the social, political, intellectual, and diplomatic development of the English nation from a regional power to a global empire, with final analysis on the United Kingdom as it enters the 21st century.

4099 Special Topics: Directed Studies in Ancient History. Research and/or reading seminar in some aspect of ancient history from approximately 700 B.C. to 500 A.D. The subject matter will vary from time to time to reflect the interest of the professor. May be repeated when a different aspect of history is studied.

4099 Special Topics: Directed Studies in Medieval History. Research and/or reading seminar in some aspect of ancient history from approximately 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. The subject matter will vary from time to time to reflect the interest of the professor. May be repeated when a different aspect of history is studied.



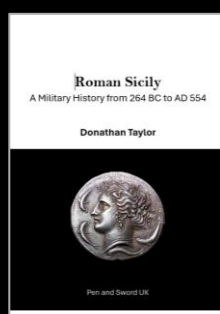
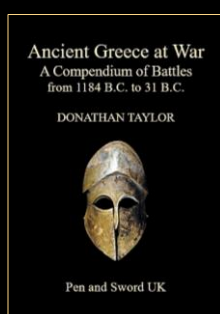
Kylix, Attic, Triptolemos Painter, ca. 460 BC. The tondo portrays a Greek hoplite slaying a fallen Persian soldier - National Museum of Scotland



Donathan Taylor's research specialization is military history, with emphasis on ancient Greek hoplite warfare in the Archaic and Classical periods, the Roman army in the Late Republic, logistics of the Roman Imperial army, and the evolution of Late Roman Imperial cavalry.

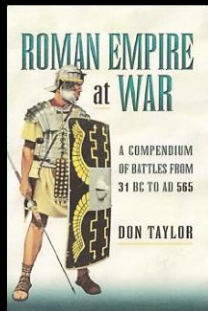
His studies commonly focus on two aspects of military activity: the history and nature of battle in the Greco-Roman world; and the role of military occupation. More specifically regarding the latter topic, his work traditionally concentrates on the logistical challenges faced by a Roman army of occupation, as well as the often-symbiotic relationship that subsequently developed between army units and neighboring indigenous communities situated in a particular frontier region. A central aspect of Taylor's interest is the living conditions and daily operations of Roman legionary and auxiliary forces stationed in the more arid regions of the Mediterranean Basin – particularly on or near the imperial frontiers of North Africa, Egypt, and Syria.

Currently, he is exploring two topics for purposes of future publication. The first research project, tentatively titled, *Roman Sicily: A Military History from 264 BC to AD 554*, explores the history and nature of Rome's presence in Sicily over the course of eight centuries, from the outbreak of the first Punic conflict in the third century BC to the end of the Great Gothic War of the Eastern Roman emperor Justinian I.

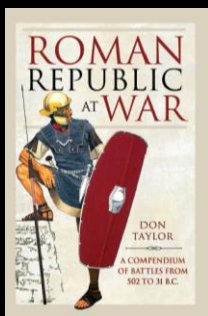


The Second project, *Ancient Greece at War, A Compendium of Battles from 1184 B.C. to 31 B.C.* is intended as a companion to Taylor's two previous volumes, *Roman Republic at War: A Compendium of Roman Battles from 502 B.C. to 31 B.C.* and *Roman Empire at War: A Compendium of Roman Battles from 31 B.C. to A.D. 565*. The work will catalogue and offer a brief description of every significant battle fought by the Ancient Greeks to the Battle of Actium, 31 BC.

Books

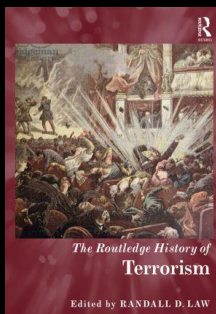


"Prof. Taylor, who has specialized in Roman history, has compiled a valuable reference guide to the battles of the Roman Empire through the reign of Justinian... This is an indispensable reference guide for any student of the Roman military." - *New York Military Affairs Symposium Review*



"Most history books concentrate on one campaign or another when it comes to the Romans. This amazing book by Don Taylor catalogues the entire canon of Roman Republican campaigns in a single volume, drawing on, amongst other things, contemporary accounts. If you want to start learning about the Roman Army and its campaigns, this is the place to start!" - *Books Monthly*.

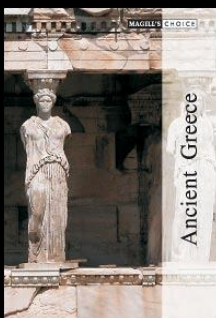
Book Chapter



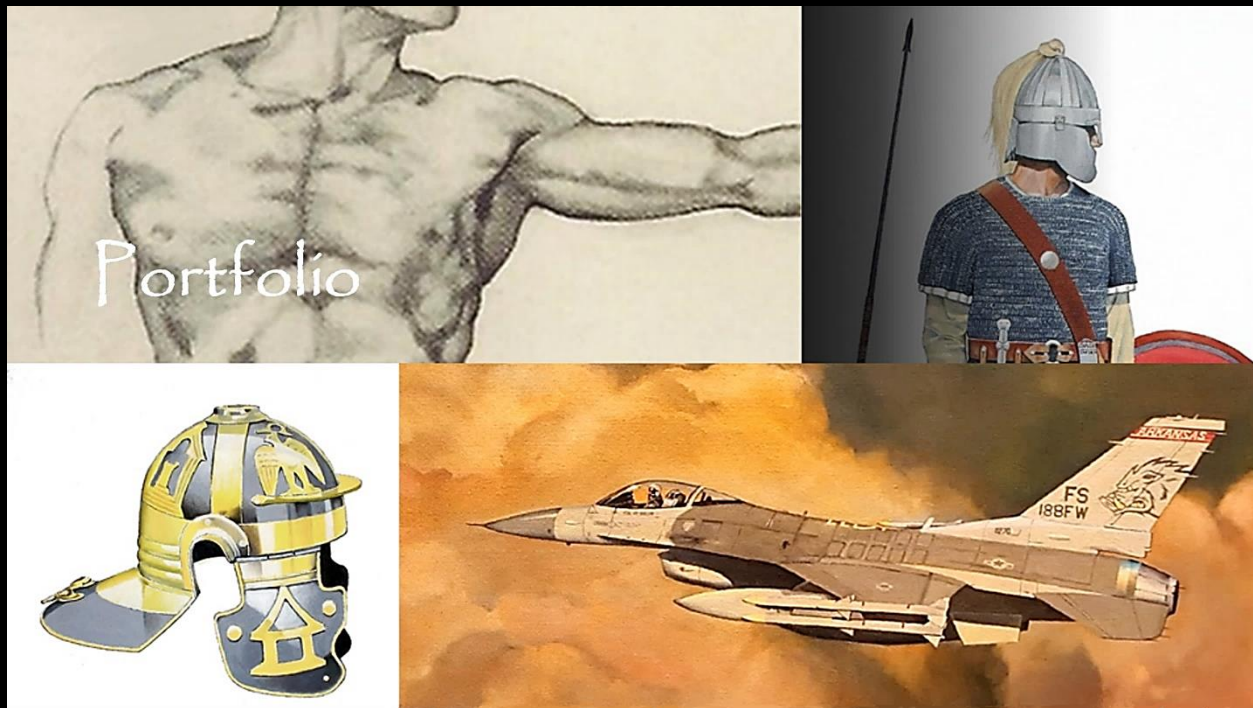
"The historical study of terrorism has come of age. Randall Law's skillfully edited collection follows the spectacle of terror from ancient to recent times, . . . Meticulously detailed and sweepingly synthetic, *The Routledge History of Terrorism* is an essential guide for students and an indispensable resource for researchers and anyone who cares about this burning issue of our day."

- Julian Bourg, *Boston College*.

Sample Article



"An A-Z survey of Greek history, culture and civilization from its earliest archaeological remains to the Battle of Actium (31 B.C.E.), when Greek civilization merged with Roman to become Greco-Roman civilization. A-Z coverage of 315 major personages, wars, political, and cultural subjects from Greece, from Homeric times through 31 B.C.E. "



In addition to his work as a writer and historian, Donathan Taylor is an artist and published illustrator. His preferred medium is oil, but he is also proficient in the use of acrylic, watercolor, and gouache. He has painted a variety of genres over the years, though he favors aviation and historical subjects. Being both an artist and professional historian, Taylor believes it is critical to thoroughly research and understand the subject matter of each painting he creates in order to accurately and convincingly render an image on canvas. Below are two samples of his work.



Portrait of H.W. Short
Oil on canvas



Fast Eagle 106

Oil on canvas



Travel Scrapbook: Personal Photographs from Europe and the Mediterranean



Library of Celsus, Ephesus, Turkey



Palace of Knossos, Island of Crete



Students in the theatre at Delphi, Greece



Forum of Pompeii, Italy



Roman Forum, Rome, Italy (Arch of Septimius Severus)



Roman Forum, Rome, Italy (Arch of Constantine and the Flavian Amphitheatre)



Roman Forum, Rome, Italy



View of Naples, Italy from atop 4,200 ft. Mt. Vesuvius



Cliffside view, Greek island of Santorini



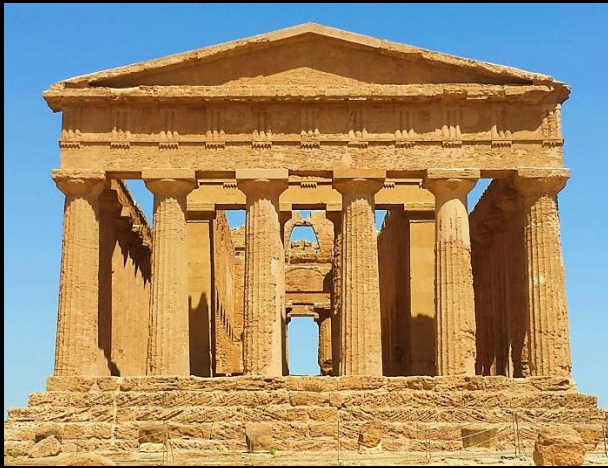
Greek mainland, opposite the island of Ithaca



Roman baths, Bath, England



My Studies Abroad students on Hadrian's Wall, UK. Birdoswald Roman Fort is in the background.



Greek Temple of Concordia, Valley of the Temples, Sicily



View of Catania, Sicily, and the Ionian Sea from 6,500 feet up on the slopes of 11,000 ft. Mt. Etna



Greek Temple E, Selinunte, Sicily



Peristyle, Greek Temple E, Selinunte, Sicily



Grape Vineyards, Mt. Etna, Sicily



Greek Temple of Herakles, Agrigento, Sicily



Greek Temple of Hera II, Paestum, Italy



Peristyle, Greek Temple of Hera II, Paestum, Italy



Moonrise over the Mediterranean



Sunrise over the Mediterranean



Greek theatre at Segesta, Sicily



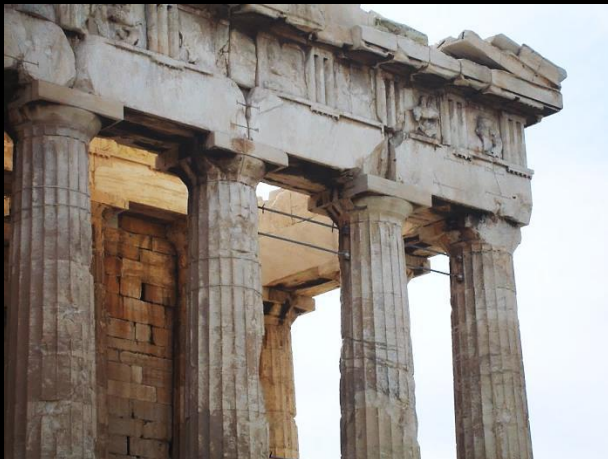
Sunset over the Greek island of Patmos



Unfinished Greek Temple at Segesta, Sicily



Peristyle, Greek Temple at Segesta, Sicily



Parthenon, Athens, Greece



Oculus in the dome of the Pantheon, Rome, Italy



Greek Temple of Hera, Valley of the Temples, Sicily



Greek theatre at Siracusa (anc. Syracuse), Sicily



Greek Temple of Apollo, Corinth, Greece



Temple of Apollo with the acrocorinth in the background, Corinth, Greece



Temple of Hadrian, Ephesus, Turkey



Roman arch, west side of theatre, Philippi, Greece



Michelangelo's David, Florence, Italy



Sunset over Assisi, Umbria, Italy



Roman Forum from the Palatine Hill, Rome, Italy



Aurelian Walls, Rome, Italy



Roman defensive walls, Thessaloniki, Greece



Florence, Italy at sunset



KEEP
CALM
AND
GO
OWLS

