



Università degli Studi di Brescia

Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza

Thomas A.J. McGinn

This course focuses on certain features of the Roman law of persons that define important aspects of legal status and social identity, starting with the dividing lines between free and slave, citizen and non-citizen. Its major subject areas embrace marriage and patria potestas. A particular concern will be with sexual offenses, such as adultery, incest, and bigamy, since these are especially useful for examining questions of status and identity from a Roman perspective. In some cases they have served as cultural markers, distinguishing Roman citizens from non-citizens, both inside the boundaries of the empire and beyond. As such, their function becomes especially interesting in the wake of the Constitutio Antoniniana.

A major orientation in teaching Roman law in this century is to demonstrate its immediate relevance for modern concerns. This course will take a somewhat different tack, by suggesting that its indirect relevance is no less important. The areas of the law of persons mentioned above emerge in fact as rather peculiar in their fundamental details, whether judged by ancient standards or by our own. We will explore the reasons for this, and attempt to develop a sense of how to evaluate similar 'peculiarities' in other parts of the historical record including our own legal cultures.

*Students will be recognised
3 CFU (20 hours)*

Vanderbilt University
Department of Classical Studies
Nashville, Tennessee (USA)



Ara Pacis (part.)

The Roman Law of the Family: Cases on Personal Status and Identity

April-May 2016

Week 1:

Wednesday	April 20	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Thursday	April 21	12.00-13.30 Hall 6

Week 2

Tuesday	April 26	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Wednesday	April 27	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Thursday	April 28	12.00-13.30 Hall 6

Week 3

Tuesday	May 3	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Wednesday	May 4	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Thursday	May 5	12.00-13.30 Hall 6

Week 4

Wednesday	May 11	15.30-17.00 Hall 8
Thursday	May 12	15.30-17.00 Hall 8

Applicants must fill in the Application form available on Department's website and mail it to:
antonello.calore@unibs.it or giovanni.turelli@unibs.it