**Meeting with Dean Saller 20180529**

The topics I found most interesting:

* manumission
* elite slaves
* the relationship between slavery and honor
* kidnapping as a source of slaves

From SSD:

* frameworks for thinking
* patterns to which I will pay attention as I conduct research

**Big Ideas**

* Power and its facets
* Patterns of the origins of a slave's powerlessness (slavery as a substitute for death, usually violent death)
* Genealogical isolation, natal alienation
* "Outsider" status of the slave (citing Finley)
* The three constituent elements of the slave relation:

1. unusual in extremity of power involved and qualities of coercion that brought the relation into being and sustained it (p2)
2. the slave's "natal alienation" (p5)
3. slaves were always persons who had been dishonored in a generalized way (p10)

**Honor**

"The slave... could have no honor because he had no power and no independent social existence, hence no public work. (p10)"

can't respond to specific acts of dishonor "by taking appropriate action. The slave... usually stood outside the game of honor."

Universal is the "crushing and pervasive sense of knowing that one is considered a person without honor and that there simply is nothing that can be done about it." Sosia in Plautus's Amphitryo: "It's not just the work, but knowing your'e a slave, and nothing can alter it." (12)

**Elite Slaves**

300: "We seem here to be at the very limit of the concept of slavery, if not well beyond it...it is precisely at the limits that one tests the sharpness of one's constructs."

302: "The need to govern an empire on this scale had never before arisen."

"Although the excesses of imperial slaves and freedmen have been widely publicized, it should not be forgotten that they were the exceptions to the general rule. The normal pattern seems to have been one in which slaves and freedmen executed their tasks with commendable efficiency. The remarkable thing about Rome and its empire during the first three centuries after Christy is... the simple, stark fact that it worked. The originality and dexterity with which it met its administrative challenges is simply incredible, and the imperial freedmen and slaves must take a large part of the credit."

three reasons for roman empire to use slaves:

1. compel skilled people to leave natal communities to perform administrative jobs
2. adaptable physically and occupationally during major structural transformation of gov from republican rome to empire
3. cheap

303: "they could be literally whipped into shape." subject to torture when inefficient or corrupt.

304:

"Not just secretarial work but any form of direct personal service was considered dishonorable by upper-class Romans."

**Manumission**

I cycled several other ideas through on the topic of manumission and its modes across societies.

* Wartime manumission, comparing the case studies of Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century in medieval Korea with the Punic wars in republican Rome. (Before Stanford, I took some early Asian history classes because I really liked the teacher and I had run out of his western history classes.)
* Crossroads as a symbolic element of manumission, comparing the case studies of Roman freedmen who participated in the Lares cult, associated with crossroads and intersections with those of the Kerebe of Tanzania and the Lombards, both of whom associated crossroads with choice and featured physical crossroads in their manumission ceremonies.
* The prospect of manumission as a mechanism of control in Rome and in the American South.

While continuing to think deeply about manumission, I might like to take this opportunity to research a different topic.

**Kidnapping**

* I remembered our conversation about kidnapping as a potentially interesting area of further study
* I decided to hone in on the ideas presented in second section, first chapter of Slavery and Social Death ("Slavery as an Institutional Process: The Enslavement of Free Persons").
* especially the social/political/economic contexts which contributed to the significance and sustainability of kidnapping as a slave source (as well as useful definitional concepts, such as the distinction between kidnapping/raiding and war).

Three possible topics:

1. Comparison between the contexts and effectivenesses of the counterpiracy campaigns of Pompey in the Mediterranean and the EU off the coast of Somalia (Operation Atalanta, ongoing). (I am concerned about the direct relevance of this topic to this class, since both of these campaigns have been oriented toward maritime crime in general in their respective regions rather than just human trafficking, although human trafficking has been a major motivator of both the Cilician and Somali pirates.)
2. Comparison between the cultural contexts of *raptus* in Rome (e.g. the rape of the Sabine women) and in Iceland (where modern genetic evidence suggests that Icelanders might significantly trace lineage to women kidnapped from medieval Britain).
3. Comparison between the human trafficking operations of the Cilician pirates in the eastern Mediterranean and the Viking pirates in the North Sea, with the bases of comparison including scale, scope, and the sustainability of the operations given the regional/political/economic contexts. (The distinct reasons that the operations eventually declined – economic, with the decline of chattel slavery due to the advent of Christianity in Scandinavia, versus military, with Pompey's anti-piracy campaigns – are also interesting, but I find the similarities between the two models of human trafficking more interesting than their differences.)
4. Do you think this or any of these would be worthwhile topics?
5. Also, do you think it would be acceptable to write one longer final paper rather than two short essays so that I can provide a more thorough treatment?