ROMAN CIVILIZATION

21:510:256:05

Winter Session

Online, Asynchronous

Professor: Dr. Aaron Beck-Schachter

Email: (TBD) aaronjbs@rutgers.edu

Office: Online

Office Hours: Online

Course Website: Canvas

Description: Ancient Rome has had an immeasurable influence on how we understand our world, not just for its effect on our language, literature, cities, and legal and political systems, but also for its lasting impact on power, geopolitics, and forces of imperialism throughout world history, even today. This course will explore the Romans from their mythical founding in 753 BCE to the “fall” of the empire in the West in 476 CE. We will examine the Romans through historical, social, cultural, and political lenses by considering Roman art, material culture, literature, philosophy, and religion. We will study Rome’s rise as a military and political power as well as the lives of women and the experiences of slaves in the republic. As we consider this full picture of Roman life, the topic of identity (both Roman and non-Roman) will be of central importance in our discussion of topics of ethnicity, gender, class, power, and imperialism.

Using critical thinking and close reading skills, we will carefully inspect primary sources to better understand the accounts of the ancients themselves, while also observing how Roman history influences the way we think about modern issues like immigration and foreign policy.

Learning objectives:

- To understand the basic narrative of ancient Roman culture and history, Archaeology and the sources upon which this narrative is based.
- To develop the technique of close reading.
- To apply principles and concepts critically across disciplines and produce and support original thoughts and arguments.
Required Texts:

3. All required course materials are provided on Canvas in the Modules section.

How to access this course: All course material can be found in the Modules section of the course’s Canvas site. If you have worries or questions about Online instruction email me! For example:

- Do you anticipate having trouble accessing a required technology resource (i.e. Streaming video)?
- Do you have any accessibility requests for me regarding online teaching? For example: materials available in a different format, transcriptions, specific approaches to discussion boards, a preference of video discussion vs. discussion boards, etc.?
- Do you have any additional questions or concerns about moving to online classes that you would like to share with me? Email me!

Rubric:

Quizzes (3) 45%

Paper Components/Comments: 20%

Research Paper 35%

This class is completely asynchronous.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes (listed in the schedule of classes below). Every quiz will be take-home, open book, open note. The format of the quizzes will be short answer and essays. The quizzes will assess your understanding of material covered in lectures and reading from the week preceding the quiz.
**Paper topic/Outline/Rough Draft:** you will be required to show progress on your paper throughout our class, each week you will post first, your topic (or possible topics), second, an outline, and third a rough draft.

**Paper:** You will complete one source analysis paper of at least seven (7) full pages based on your choice of primary sources. Late papers will **NOT** be accepted. In this paper, you will do each of the following:

- Pick a topic in consultation with me, the instructor using our list of topics.
- Explain both the problems and possibilities that the nature of your topic/source presents.
- Compose an appropriate and arguable thesis and support it with evidence from your selected sources.
- Finally, assess the usefulness of the sources for increasing our understanding of your topic in terms of the physical, historical, or social phenomena of the Roman World.

**Honor Code:** You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge on all examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment). (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (Date).” I will remind you of this.

**Grading Scale:**

- 90 - 100          A
- 87 - 89            B+
- 80 - 86            B
- 77 - 79            C+
- 70 - 76            C
- 60 - 69            D
- 59 or less        F

**SCHEDULE**
Unit 1: Early Rome, the Kings and the Early Republic, 753–168 BCE

12/22/23 – 12/26/23

Video Lecture #1


Topics: Historical events, Roman society/politics, class conflict.

Quiz 1 Due, 12/26/23

Unit 2: The Fall of Republic, 168 BCE–31 BCE

12/27/23 – 1/2/24

Video Lecture #2

Readings: Life of Tiberius Graccus (Canvas). Selections of Cicero’s Letters (in Francese and Smith, pp. 46-74); Selections from Catullus (in Francese and Smith, pp. 24-33); Plutarch, Life of Marc Antony (Canvas) Boatwright et al, The Romans chs 5–8.

Topics: Historical events, Roman architecture and art, Roman history and Religion, literature.

Quiz 2 Due: 1/2/22

Unit 4: Augustus, Aeneid, The early principate, 31-96 CE

1/3/24 – 1/8/24


Topics: Historical events, Imperial governance, Provinces, Literature.

Video Lecture #3
Quiz 3 Due: 1/9/24

**Unit 4: High Empire, Crisis and fall of Christian Rome, 96–410 CE**

1/9 – 1/12

**Video Lecture #4**


**Topics:** Historical events, rise of Christianity, barbarians and identity.

**FINAL PAPER DUE 1/12/24**

Technology:

RU-N “Technology LaunchPad”: [https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/tlp](https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/tlp)

Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: [https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/techsupport](https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/techsupport)

Academic Integrity:

[http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/newbrunswick/academic-integrity-policy/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/newbrunswick/academic-integrity-policy/)

**Accommodation and Support Statement**
Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: [https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu](http://https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu).

**For English as a Second Language (ESL):** The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.
For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a confidential resource and does not have an obligation to report information to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link:tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out TAO at Rutgers-Newark for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.