

21:510:405 Topics in Ancient History: Roman Emperors (Spring 2017)

Course Time and Location: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00am to 11:20am; Conklin 449
Instructor: G.D. Farney (Office = Conklin 309, 973-353-3897; Email = gfarney@rutgers.edu)
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 8:00am-8:30am and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the history of the Roman emperors from the first emperor Augustus to the first Christian emperor Constantine (ca. 30 BCE to 338 CE). In addition to a close reading of our primary source material, the course will focus upon the policies and image cultivated by these emperors. Most of our primary material will be literary sources (e.g. Tacitus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, but we will also explore epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological sources.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be assigned as a percentage. My grade scale is as follows: A = 100% to 92%; B+ = 91% to 87%; B = 86% to 81%; C+ = 80% to 76%; C = 75% to 70%; D = 69% to 60%; F = 59% and below.

Essay Quizzes: 30%

Two Papers: 60%

In Class Discussion: 10%

Extra-Credit Geography Quiz: special

1. There will be **five essay quizzes**. They will target the ancient source reading material, and you will receive instructions about what to expect from them about a week before each quiz. You may not make up the quizzes, but I shall drop the lowest of the 5 grades you receive.

2. Students will write **two 7 to 9 page papers** due over the course of the semester (listed below in Weekly Schedule). We will discuss the details of each when they are assigned.

3. Either during or at the end of class, we shall set aside some time for **discussion** of the material covered that day. There will also be several days in the semester devoted solely to the discussion of primary sources assigned for reading. I shall grade you on the frequency and quality of your participation in discussion for this aspect of your grade.

4. There will be an **extra-credit geography quiz** on Mon., Jan. 30. This optional quiz is intended to help you understand the history of the period better by making sure you know where the cities, regions, bodies of water, etc., are in the ancient Mediterranean world. Your quiz can potentially give you a higher score on the first paper. A score of 100% will give +4% on the first paper, 90+% will give +3%, 80+% will give +2% and 70+% will give +1%. A list of sites to be identified for the quiz is on the last page of this syllabus.

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR GRADE:

Attendance: Since class attendance and participation is essential to this course—given that much of the material you will be responsible for will only come from lectures, visual presentations and in-class discussion—absences should be kept to a minimum. Accordingly, the maximum number of unexcused absences allowed is two, beyond which there will be a grade penalty of -3% of the total grade for the course for each day past two. As per the policy of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences, any student who misses more than eight courses, **excused or not**, will receive a “no grade” for their work in the class. There will also be a grade penalty for persistent lateness. If you must miss a class for religious reasons, please inform me within 2 weeks of the class to obtain an excused absence.

Use of unapproved electronic devices is prohibited during class (this includes computers, phones, etc.). If I see you using such a device during class, I will mark you as absent for the day.

Policy on Academic Integrity: No act of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. All students are read the academic integrity policy on the course’s Blackboard site, listed under “Academic Integrity.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please

contact Kate Torres at .973.353.5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in Robeson Campus Center 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

COURSE MATERIALS:

REQUIRED BOOK

1). Wells, C. Roman Empire <2nd Ed.> (Harvard U.P., 1995).

BLACKBOARD: This course is listed on Blackboard on the Rutgers-Newark website. Through Blackboard, you will be able to access a copy of the syllabus, Powerpoints used in presentations for the course, quiz study questions, and many of the course readings (other course readings will be by internet links provided in the syllabus below). I will also post announcements regarding the course from time to time there.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: PART ONE

Wed 18 Jan: Introduction to Course

Mon 23 Jan: Hellenistic and Republican Antecedents

Wells, p. 1-10

Zanker, p. 1-31

Wed 25 Jan: Julius Caesar

Suetonius, Life of Julius Caesar

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Julius*.html)

Mon 30 Jan: The Triumviral Period

Extra-Credit Geography Quiz

Wells, p. 11-30

Zanker, p. 32-77

Wed 1 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Augustus

Wells, p. 49-78

Augustus, Res Gestae

Mon 6 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Augustus

Quiz #1

Zanker, p. 79-100

Suetonius, Life of Augustus

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Augustus*.html)

Wed 8 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Augustus

Zanker p. 101-238

Mon 13 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Tiberius

Wells, p. 95-108

Tacitus, Annals, 1.1-15 (death of Augustus and accession of Tiberius)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/1A*.html)

Tacitus, Annals, 1.72-81 (maiestas law)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/1E*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 2.47-88 (death of Germanicus)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/2C*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 6.1-27 (purge of Sejanus' followers)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/6A*.html)

Wed 15 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Tiberius

Suetonius, Life of Tiberius

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Tiberius*.html)

Mon 20 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Caligula

Quiz #2

Wells, p. 108-109

Suetonius, Life of Caligula

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Caligula*.html)

Wed 22 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Claudius

Wells, p. 109-116

Tacitus, Annals 11.1-15 (picking up with Claudius as emperor in 47 CE)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/11A*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 11.16-38 (debate about Gallic senators; affairs and death of Messalina)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/11B*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 12.1-40 (Claudius remarries and adopts Nero)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/12A*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 12.41-69 (death of Claudius)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/12B*.html)

Lyon Tablet (<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/48claudius.asp>)

Mon 27 Feb: Julio-Claudians: Nero

Wells, p. 116-122

Tacitus, Annals 13.1-30 (Nero begins as emperor)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/13A*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 14.1-28 (Nero murders his mother)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/14A*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 14.40-65 (more intrigue under Nero)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/14C*.html)

Wed 1 Mar: Julio-Claudians: Nero

Tacitus, Annals 15.33-47 (Fire of Rome; persecution of Christians)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/15B*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 15.48-74 (Pisonian Conspiracy)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/15C*.html)

Tacitus, Annals 16.1-35 (Nero destroys Stoic opposition)

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/Annals/16*.html)

Mon 6 Mar: Julio-Claudians: Art and Architecture; Army and Provinces

Paper #1 Assigned

Wells, p. 123-151

Other reading to be announced

Wed 8 Mar: The Year of Four Emperors

Quiz #3

Wells, p. 152-158

Suetonius, Life of Galba

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Galba*.html)

Suetonius, Life of Otho

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Otho*.html)

Suetonius, Life of Vitellius

(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Vitellius*.html)

Mon 13 Mar – Wed 15 Mar: SPRING BREAK (No Class)

Mon 20 Mar: NO CLASS

PAPER #2 DUE: Wednesday, May 10, 6:00pm (due to me by email attachment)

EXTRA CREDIT MAP QUIZ:

The quiz will be on Monday, 30 January. You should be able to find all of these features on maps in the Wells textbook or on the internet.

Cities: 10

Rome
Naples
Brundisium
Tarentum
Carthage
Syracuse
Alexandria
Corinth
Athens
Jerusalem

Regions and Islands: 19

Latium
Etruria
Campania
Corsica
Sardinia
Sicily
Illyria
Numidia
Gallia (Gaul)
Egypt
Asia
Macedonia
Kingdom of Parthia
Pontus
Armenia
Germania (Germany)
Crete
Samnium
Cyprus

Mountains: 2

Alps
Apennines

Bodies of Water: 9

Tiber River
Rubicon River
Po River
Adriatic Sea
Rhine River
Danube River
Elbe River
Nile River
Black Sea