

TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO REVISION

21:510:256 Roman Civilization (Fall 2016)

Course Time and Location: Mon. 2:30pm-3:50pm, Wed. 1:00pm-2:20pm; Conklin 352

Instructor: G.D. Farney (Office = Conklin 312, 973-353-3897; gfarney@rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm to 2:30pm, Wednesdays 12:00pm to 1:00pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course addresses the civilization and history of the Roman people from their emergence in the early Iron Age down to the beginning of the Byzantine empire (ca. 700 BC – AD 600). Special attention will be paid to the political and military history of the Romans; social and cultural aspects of Roman society (slavery, sexuality, imperialism; absorption of non-Roman people); the emergence of Christianity; and the conquest and “Romanization” of Europe and the Mediterranean world.

Readings from ancient sources in translation include formal history (Livy, Sallust, Plutarch, Suetonius, Tacitus, Ammianus Marcellinus, Procopius), political manifesto and speech (Augustus, Cicero), poetry (Vergil, Juvenal) and early Christian writings. We shall also consult a number of digital images throughout the course. Each week students will read some of this primary source material (20 to 50 pages) along a modern historical narrative (Potter) to supplement this. Students will learn to read primary sources closely and to analyze them in their historical context.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

GRADING SYSTEM:

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.

Six Essay Quizzes: 30%

Two Examinations: 60%

In Class Discussion: 10%

Extra-Credit Geography Quizzes: special

1. There will be **six 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. I shall drop the lowest of the 6 grades you receive.

2. Students will write **two examinations**, a midterm and a final exam. They will consist of identifications (3 to 5 sentences on a person/place/date, etc.) and essays.

3. Either during or at the end of every class, we shall set aside some time for **discussion** of the material covered that day. There will also be two days in the semester devoted solely to the discussion of two 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** early in the semester. 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 midterm examination. A score of 100% will give +4% on the exam, 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.

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

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:

TO BUY: Potter, D. Ancient Rome: A New History <2nd Edition> (Thames & Hudson: New York, 2014)

BLACKBOARD: This course is listed on Blackboard on the Rutgers-Newark website. Through Blackboard, you will be able to access, among other things, a copy of the syllabus and readings not in the book listed above. I will also post announcements from time to time there.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: (Assignments are to be completed by class-time on the date they are listed; “Readings” are to be found on the course’s Blackboard site)

Wed 7 Sept: Introduction to the Course

Potter, p. 9-18

Mon 12 Sept: Early Rome

Reading: Livy on early Rome

Potter, p. 19-47

Wed 14 Sept: The Foundation of the Republic and the Conquest of Italy

Extra-Credit Geography Quiz (see last page)

Potter, p. 47-65

Mon 19 Sept: The First Punic War and the Second Punic War

Potter, p. 65-86

Reading: Plutarch, Life of Fabius Maximus

Wed 21 Sept: The Conquest of the Mediterranean

Potter, p. 86-104

Mon 26 Sept: Changes in Republican Roman Society in the Second Century BC

Quiz #1

Reading: Plutarch, Life of Cato the Elder

Wed 28 Sept and Mon 3 Oct: NO CLASS

Wed 5 Oct: The Gracchi and the Beginning of Political Conflict

Potter, p. 106-116

Mon 10 Oct: Marius

Potter, p. 117-124

Reading: Excerpt from Sallust, Jugurthine War

Wed 12 Oct: Rome and the Provinces

Quiz #2

Reading: Cicero, Pro Flacco (read for discussion; NOTE this reading is divided into 3 parts on Blackboard)

Mon 17 Oct: Sulla

Potter, p. 135-147

Wed 19 Oct: Pompey and Caesar I

Potter, p. 150-168

Reading: Sources on the Rebellion of Spartacus

Mon 24 Oct: Pompey and Caesar II; End of the Republic

Reading: Excerpt from Sallust, Conspiracy of Catiline

Wed 26 Oct: The Triumviral Period (44 - 31 BC)

Quiz #3

Potter, p. 168-178

Reading: Vergil, Aeneid 6

Mon 31 Oct: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Wed 2 Nov: Roman Women and Roman Slavery

Reading: Various sources on women and slavery

Reading: Juvenal, Satire 6

Mon 7 Nov: The First Emperor, Augustus

Potter, p. 178-193

Reading: Res Gestae Augusti

Wed 9 Nov: Tiberius and Caligula

Potter, p. 193-201

Reading: Suetonius, Life of Gaius (Caligula)

Mon 14 Nov: Claudius and Nero

Quiz #4

Potter, p. 201-203

Reading: Excerpt from Tacitus, Annals on Fire of Rome and Christians

Wed 16 Nov: The Flavian Emperors

Potter, p. 204-217

Reading: Pliny the Younger on the eruption of Vesuvius

Mon 21 Nov: The Antonine Emperors

Potter, p. 217-258

Wed 23 Nov: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Mon 28 Nov: The Severan Emperors and the Third Century Crisis

Potter, p. 258-283

Wed 30 Nov: Romans and Non-Romans

Quiz#5

Reading: Tacitus on the Jews (Excerpt from the Histories) and Germans (the Germania)

Reading: Ammianus Marcellinus on the Gauls and the Huns

Mon 5 Dec: Traditional Pagan Religion, Christianity & Other Religions

Reading: Various sources on religion

Wed 7 Dec: Diocletian and Constantine

Potter, p. 284-305

Mon 12 Dec: The Fall of the Western Empire

Potter, p. 305-320

Wed 14 Dec: The Rise of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire

Quiz #6

Potter, p. 321-354

Reading: Procopius on Justinian

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, 19 December, 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Roman History Extra-Credit Map Quiz

The quiz will be on Wed. Sept. 14. You should be able to find all of these features on maps in your Potter textbook or on the internet.

Cities:

Rome
Naples
Brundisium
Tarentum
Carthage
Syracuse
Alexandria
Corinth
Athens
Jerusalem

Regions and Islands:

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

Mountains:

Alps
Apennines

Bodies of Water:

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