

# ROMAN CIVILIZATION

Spring Semester 2019

## **Roman Civilization (21:510:256:01)**

**Time:** Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:20 PM

**Place:** Hill Hall 101

## **Charles George, Instructor**

[charles.george@rutgers.edu](mailto:charles.george@rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tu, Th 2:45-3:45 PM, Conklin 326

**FINAL EXAM:** WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 3:00 PM

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will follow the growth of Rome from its origins as a tiny settlement into a massive empire that lasted well over a millennium and whose influence is still felt today through much of the world. In the process, we will get to know the Romans themselves. This will include famous historical figures like Scipio, Cicero, Caesar, Augustus, Cornelia, and Sempronia and writers like Vergil and Livy. From literary accounts and archaeological material we will also collect evidence that will help us to get an insight into the life of a Roman layperson: such as the average plebeian about to lose his small farm to an aristocratic land-holder, the alien seeking to win citizenship through military service, a woman marrying into a new family, a tradesperson, and a slave. We will learn about Roman culture, religion, and social and political structure and in so doing will hopefully gain a fuller intellectual perspective from which to think of our own world today.

## II. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Boatwright. *A Brief History of the Romans*. Second Edition. Oxford. 2014  
(ISBN: 9780199987559) Available at Bookstore
2. Shelton, *As the Romans Did*. Oxford. 1998  
(ISBN: 9780195089745) Available at Bookstore
3. Livy, *The Early History of Rome*. Penguin. 2005  
(ISBN: 9780140448092) Available at Bookstore
4. All other readings will be available on pdf on the class Blackboard website.

## III. CLASS OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course you will:

1. Have learned an overview of Roman History from the origins of the city of Rome in 753 BC to the fall of the Western Empire in 476 AD.
2. Have learned an overview of Roman social structure, military, politics, and religion and followed changes in each in relation to the growth and development of the empire and lives of Romans.
3. Have gained a better understanding of how to evaluate and critically analyze evidence from ancient primary sources—prose, poetry, and archaeological.
4. Have considered Roman influence on art, literature, architecture, and political, social, and religious institutions and practices today.

This syllabus is subject to change.

## IV. ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Attendance is mandatory and will be checked via sign-in sheet.
2. Unexcused absences: THREE (3) unexcused absences will be allowed without additional deduction from your grade. More than three unexcused absences result in a four point deduction from the participation grade.
3. Excused absences:
  - a. Absences due to sickness, injury, or family emergency may be excused with a signed note from the university health center or the dean.
  - b. In some cases, planned absences (e.g., for religious observance) are allowed. Students requesting a planned absence must contact the instructor at least one class in advance of the expected absence.
4. Per dept. policy, “any student who misses EIGHT (8) or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.”
5. In the case of an absence, you are responsible for obtaining class notes from a classmate.
6. For the midterm or final exam, only the original copy of a medical excuse, signed by a doctor of medicine, will be accepted as an excuse for absence. Any other form of excuse, including family emergency or religious observance, must receive the clearance of the appropriate dean's office and must be signed by a dean. Ordinary dental treatment should not be scheduled at the time of a class or on the day of an exam or on the day before an exam. Do not book airline tickets for the day of a class or an exam. A non-refundable, unchangeable ticket is not an excuse for missing a class or an exam.

## V. GRADING POLICY

Each of the following components will determine a fraction of the final grade:

1. Class and Homework – 15%
  2. Participation – 5%
  3. Final Project and Paper – 30%
  4. Midterm Exam – 20%
  5. Final Exam – 30%
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1. Class and Homework: This grade will include: 1) scores of weekly online reading assessments designed to be completed open book as you read, and 2) short written activities.
  2. Participation: Points would be deducted here for excessive absences or failure to participate in class.
  3. Final Project and Paper: For the Final Project, you will travel to Ancient Rome, where you and your fellow group members will assume an occupation (choices TBD, but may include general, farmer, poet, philosopher, gladiator, and priestess.). You will be assigned a question specific to your role and will be asked to prepare a three minute presentation in response. The questions for each occupation will call upon you to demonstrate your ability to creatively apply what you have learned, including use of evidence from your primary sources. On Monday, May 6, a three page paper on your findings from the presentation will be due online before 11:59 PM.
  4. Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will consist of two sections: 1) Identifications: You will choose six terms or names out of twelve and write an identification of each, including significant facts and connecting it to larger themes in the class. A list of all possible terms will be given to you in advance of the exam. 2) Essay: You will write an essay from a list of possible essay topics. Duration of the exam will be exactly 80 minutes. Please check the date of the exam and mark your calendar.

5. Final Exam: The final exam (WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 3:00 PM) will cover only material following the midterm, but naturally you are encouraged to incorporate your pre-midterm knowledge into your answers. It will be in the same format as the midterm. You will be allotted three hours to finish.
- \*\*\* A = 90% & above, B+ = 87-89.9, B = 80-86.9, C+ = 77-79.9, C = 70-76.9, D = 65-69.9, F = Below 65 \*\*\*

Completion of all assignments, exams, and components of the class are a minimum requirement to pass.

If you are not doing well in class, speak with me immediately, so we can identify your problems and you can begin to improve.

## VI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.

On all examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading, you will be asked to sign the Rutgers honor pledge: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

## VII. DISABILITY SERVICES

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete and submit the Registration Form, schedule and complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin the process, by completing and submitting the Registration Form, available at the website below, Applying for Services.

- **Applying for Services:** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services>
- **Documentation Guidelines:** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>
- **Letter of Accommodations (LOA):** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodations/letter-of-accommodations>
- **Office of Disability Services (ODS):** Paul Robeson Campus Center, Suite 219,  
Phone: (973) 353-5315      Email: [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu)

## VIII. LEARNING RESOURCES

**Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring):** Bradley 140, (973) 353-5608, <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc> .  
**Writing Center (tutoring, writing workshops):** Conklin 126, (973) 353-5847, [nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu) ,  
<https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter> .

## IX. YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE

(R = Readings)

**TUES. JAN. 22** Introduction, Meet the Romans! **R:** No Readings for today

**THURS. JAN. 24** Origins of Rome; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 1, Mary Beard pdf

**TUES. JAN. 29** Using Evidence; **R:** Bradley pdf

**THURS. JAN. 31** Early Republic; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 2, Livy Book 1 pp 17-37, 61-85 (pdf)

**TUES. FEB. 5** Republican Government, Close reading activity; **R:** Shelton pp. 203-225, Bradley pdf 2

**THURS. FEB. 7** The Punic Wars; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 3; Selections from Vergil (pdf)

**TUES. FEB. 12** The Roman Family; Exam Prep **R:** Shelton pp. 17-55

**THURS. FEB. 14** The Gracchi; Exam Prep Activity **R:** Boatwright Ch. 4

**TUES. FEB. 19** Roman Religion; **R:** Shelton pp. 360-389

**THURS. FEB. 21** Marius and Sulla; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 5

**TUES. FEB. 26** Marius and Sulla Part II; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 6

**THURS. FEB. 28** REVIEW

**TUES. MAR. 5** \*\*\* MIDTERM EXAM \*\*\*

**THURS. MAR. 7** Julius Caesar; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 7, Selections from Suetonius and Plutarch (pdf)

**TUES. MAR. 12** Fall of Republic; **R:** "Classical Antiquity and Early Conceptions of the US Senate" (pdf)

**THURS. MAR. 14** Caesar Augustus and the "Republic Restored"; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 8

\*\*\* SAT. MAR. 16 – SUN. MAR. 24 SPRING BREAK \*\*\*

**TUES. MAR. 26** Augustan Rome; **R:** Selections from Vergil, Horace (pdf)

**THURS. MAR. 28** Julio Claudian Emperors I; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 9

**TUES. APR. 2** Julio Claudian Emperors II, Video: "I Claudius"; **R:** Shelton pp. 226-242

**THURS. APR. 4** The Flavian Emperors; **R:** Boatwright Ch 10

**TUES. APR. 9** Trajan; **R:** Boatwright Ch 11, Readings from Pliny the Younger (pdf)

**THURS. APR. 11** Video: Vesuvius and Pompeii

**TUES. APR. 16** Third Century Developments, Diocletian **R:** Boatwright Ch. 12

**THURS. APR. 18** Constantine, Christianity; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 13

**TUES. APR. 23** \*\*\*Class Presentations Today!\*\*\*

**THURS. APR. 25** \*\*\*Class Presentations Today!\*\*\*

**TUES. APR. 30** Fall of the Roman Empire; **R:** Boatwright Ch. 14

**THURS. MAY 2** Epilogue and Review

**MONDAY, MAY 6** \*\*\*Final Paper Due at 11:59 PM on Blackboard (No Class)\*\*\*

**FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 3:00 PM (Different day and earlier time than usual class period.)**