

Roman Civilization

21:510:256:01 Fall 2014

Monday 2:30-3:50 pm, Wednesday 1:00-2:20 pm

Conklin Hall 352

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Office Hours: Monday 1-2 pm
and by appointment

Course Summary

This course is an introduction to the history of the Roman people from their emergence in the early Iron Age down to the beginning of the Byzantine Empire (c. 700 BC – 500 AD). Topics covered will include the political and military history of the Romans in both the Republic and the Empire; social and cultural aspects of Roman society; religious life, especially the emergence of Christianity; and the conquest and “Romanization” of Europe and the Mediterranean world.

Students in this course will learn to think critically about historical process. An emphasis will be placed on the use of primary sources – original documents written during the period being studied – to come to a better understanding of the past. Students will learn how to place these documents into their proper context and use them to make a historically-significant argument, both in the course of class discussion and in written assignments. Class discussion will require students to engage with the readings, the instructor and their peers, practicing their public speaking as well as critical thinking and analytical skills.

Texts

The textbook for the course is: David Potter, *Ancient Rome: A New History*, 2nd edition (Thames and Hudson, 2014). The ISBN number is 9780500291245. This book is available from the campus Barnes and Noble bookstore as well as NJ Books. Reading from the textbook will be assigned for each class session. Additional primary source readings will also be assigned. These can be found either on the Blackboard course site or linked from the syllabus.

Course Assignments and Grading

Students will be graded on the following:

Participation and Attendance	30%
Primary Source Essays (2)	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Primary Source Essays:

History is not simply about memorizing names, dates and events, but learning how to interpret and understand them. Therefore, each student will be required to complete two 700-1000 word essays (that’s 2-3 pages) analyzing specific primary sources relating to the course material.

Students will be assigned primary sources from which to develop their own historically-significant thesis statement and to support it using evidence from the texts. The essays will be graded on the complexity and significance of the chosen thesis statement and how well the textual evidence supports it. There will be plenty of in-class discussion of primary sources to guide students through this process. Further assignment guidelines will be provided later in the semester.

Exams:

In addition to these writing assignments, the course will have a midterm and non-cumulative final exam. These will evaluate students' understanding of the material covered in lecture and the readings. These exams will likely include terms to identify, some short essays and a longer thematic essay question. The questions will be drawn more heavily from lecture material than the recommended textbook, so students are advised to take good notes throughout the semester to help prepare for these exams. These notes will be more helpful for studying than the textbook, which often provides more information than we will ultimately cover.

The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday 10/15 and the final exam is during the university's final exam period, on Wednesday 12/17 from 3-6 pm. Students are required to be present for exams. Any student who misses an exam for any reason that does not fall under Rutgers' official excused absence policy will automatically be penalized ten points. The exam must be made up within one week of the originally-scheduled date. **If you know you will miss an exam, please email me as soon as possible (ideally before the exam) to schedule your makeup.** If the scheduled makeup exam is missed as well, the student will lose the opportunity to make the exam up and will receive a zero.

Participation and Attendance:

Students are expected to attend lecture and participate in class discussions and activities. Participation means active engagement with the class during discussions and group work. Students will be graded on their participation during each individual class session. In order to receive full participation credit for a class session, a student must ask a question or contribute to the discussion more than once during that session. While the goal is consistent participation from all students, I understand that everyone has some off days. Therefore, **at the end of the semester, each student's lowest three participation grades will be dropped.** Students are welcome to contact me at any time to find out their current participation average in the course.

Attendance at every class session is **REQUIRED**. **Any student who accrues more than three unexcused absences will have his or her final grade lowered by two points per additional absence.** These three unexcused absences are meant to help the student account for those things that always come up during a semester: a bad cold, car breakdown, family event, court date, etc. Use these absences wisely. Rutgers' official excused absences do not count toward these three. According to the Rutgers catalog, "the recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions" (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html). If one of these situations applies, please notify me as soon as you know that you will be absent and provide me with some

sort of documentation of that absence as soon as possible (in the case of a serious illness, bring a doctor's note to class the next time you attend). Emergency situations (ex. hospitalization, coma, extradition) will be handled on a case by case basis. If you do have such an emergency, please contact me about it as soon as possible. In extreme situations which affect your performance in all of your courses, you should also get in touch with an academic dean who can help mediate between you and your professors and get you back on track.

All students are also expected to be on time for every class. Class will begin promptly at 10:00 and will often begin with important announcements, so every student should make an effort to arrive on time. **Lateness of more than twenty minutes will count as half an absence.**

**** Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F. ****

Note on Communication:

Remember that communication is important in any student-teacher relationship. If you are having any sort of trouble with the course, please do not hesitate to contact me about it. The longer you wait, the worse it can get. Better to talk with me early so we can set about solving the problem together than waiting until it affects your final grade.

Course Policies

Conduct: Please refrain from disruptive behavior, such as eating, carrying on conversations, excessive comings and goings, or inappropriate internet usage. Silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices during class. Any student whose conduct is disruptive to the class will be asked to leave and will not be given credit for attendance or participation on that day.

Any student whose conduct is rude and disrespectful will receive negative participation points for the day (taking away from positive participation during another class session). Rude and disrespectful behavior includes sleeping, wearing headphones during class, answering phone calls in the classroom, doing other homework, or being occupied in any other activity that is unrelated to the class.

Academic Integrity: Anyone caught cheating on an assignment will be dealt with according to university policy. The most common form of cheating is plagiarism. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, ask *before* beginning your assignment. If there is evidence that a student has committed any violation of academic integrity, the matter will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which will determine the appropriate sanctions. Rutgers University's full Academic Integrity Policy can be found at this address:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge on every major assignment. In order to receive credit, the following phrase as well as your signature must be included with the assignment: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment."

Syllabus: All students are expected to have read the syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide by its policies. Likewise, I agree to abide by the syllabus throughout the semester, only adapting or updating it when absolutely necessary (for example, when the university cancels classes because of inclement weather). In such rare cases, a revised schedule will be made available as soon as possible.

Schedule

The listed texts should be read *before* class on the date they are listed. Some primary source readings are linked off of the syllabus. The others can be found on the Blackboard course site.

W	9/3	Course Introduction
M	9/8	Early Rome Potter p. 19-46 Virgil – <i>The Aeneid</i> [Blackboard] Livy – Rape of Lucretia [Blackboard]
W	9/10	The Republican Political System Potter p. 47-56 <i>Twelve Tables</i> [Blackboard]
M	9/15	The Conquest of Italy and the Punic Wars Potter p. 58-82 Polybius – Rome at the End of the Punic Wars
W	9/17	The Conquest of the Mediterranean Potter p. 82-94 Livy – The Roman Way of Declaring War
M	9/22	Changes in Republican Roman Society (2nd c BC) Potter p. 94-104 Livy – Roman Women Against the Oppian Law [Blackboard]
W	9/24	The Gracchi and the Beginning of Political Conflict Potter p. 106-116 Appian of Alexandria – The Civil Wars [Blackboard]
M	9/29	Rome and the Provinces Tacitus – On Roman Imperialism
W	10/1	Marius and Sulla Potter p. 117-135 Plutarch – Life of Caius Marius

PRIMARY SOURCE ESSAY 1 DUE

- M 10/6 **The Rise of Pompey the Great**
Potter p. 135-147
[Plutarch – Life of Pompey the Great](#)
- W 10/8 **Caesar and End of the Free Republic**
Potter p. 150-168
Cicero – On the Commonwealth [Blackboard]
Caesar – The Gallic Wars [Blackboard]
- M 10/13 **Roman Slaves and Women**
Readings on women and slaves [Blackboard]
- W 10/15 MIDTERM EXAM
- M 10/20 **The Triumviral Period (44-31 BC)**
Potter p. 168-178
[Plutarch – Life of Mark Antony](#)
- W 10/22 **Augustus, The First Emperor**
Potter p. 178-193
[Augustus – Res Gestae Augusti](#)
Virgil – *The Aeneid* [Blackboard]
- M 10/27 **Augustan Successors and the Year of Four Emperors**
Potter p. 193-208
Josephus – The Jewish War [Blackboard]
- W 10/29 **The Flavian Emperors**
Potter p. 210-224
Pliny the Younger – Letters [Blackboard]
[Inscriptions from Pompeii](#)
- M 11/3 **The Antonine Emperors**
Potter p. 224-241
Marcus Aurelius – *Meditations* [Blackboard]
- W 11/5 **Late Imperial Government and Military**
Potter p. 241-258
[Josephus – Roman Armies and Camps](#)
[Josephus – Roman Army on the March](#)
- M 11/10 **Life in the Provinces: the Vindolanda Tablets**
Selections from Vindolanda Tablets [Blackboard]

W	11/12	The Severan Emperors and the Third Century Crisis Potter p. 258-283 Life of Heliogabalus [Blackboard]
M	11/17	Romans and Barbarians Tacitus – Germania
W	11/19	Religion in the Late Empire Apuleius – The Golden Ass [Blackboard] Gospel of Matthew [Blackboard]
		PRIMARY SOURCE ESSAY 2 DUE
M	11/24	Christian Persecutions Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History The Passion of Sts Perpetua and Felicity
W	11/26	NO CLASS – FRIDAY SCHEDULE
M	12/1	Diocletian and Constantine Potter p. 284-305 Eusebius – Conversion of Constantine Eusebius – Oration to Constantine [Blackboard]
W	12/3	Fall of the Western Roman Empire Potter p. 305-320 Ammianus Marcellinus – Battle of Adrianople Augustine – excerpt from <i>City of God</i>
M	12/8	The Eastern Empire: Byzantium Potter p. 322-354 Procopius – Justinian Suppresses the Nika Riots Procopius – De Aedificis Procopius – The Secret History
W	12/10	Exam Review
W	12/17	FINAL EXAM 3:00-6:00 pm