

Ancient Roman Civilization

21:510:256:01

M, TH 1-2:20pm

Online, Synchronous.

Professor: Dr. Aaron Beck-Schachter

Email: (TBD) aaronjbs@rutgers.edu

Office: Online

Office Hours: TBC

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:

1. Francese, C. and R.S. Smith. 2014. *Ancient Rome: An Anthology of Sources*. Hackett Publishing.
2. Boatwright M., Gargola D., and R. Talbert. 2004. *The Romans from Village to Empire*. Oxford.

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:

- 1) Do you anticipate having trouble accessing a required technology resource (i.e. Streaming video)?
- 2) 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.?
- 3) Do you have any additional questions or concerns about moving to online classes that you would like to share with me? **Email me!**

Rubric:

Weekly Quizzes 15%

Participation/Comments/Discussion: 15%

Midterm: 25%

Paper: 20%

Final: 25%

The class will be taught synchronously, Online.

Weekly Quizzes: Each week there will be a multiple question identification quiz covering the material from the assigned material to be completed on Canvas. **The Quizzes are due each Sunday at 12:00 PM**

Participation/Comments/Discussion: Participation is a large portion of your grade; asking questions counts as participation and helps others in the class who may want to know the same thing—so don't be shy! Be aware that participating in discussions is an effective way to position yourself for a good grade.

Midterm and Final: The midterm will cover all material from the beginning of the semester to the date of the midterm. There will be short answer questions and long essays. The final will NOT be cumulative. It will cover material from the midterm to the end of the semester.

Midterm date: 10/24/21

Final Exam date: 12/21/21, 3-6pm.

Papers: You will complete one source analysis paper of 4-5 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.
- 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 Greek 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.

Absence Policy: 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.

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

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, Myth, and the Foundation of the Republic 9/2/21

Readings: Livy 1 (in Francese and Smith, pp.142-167); Polybius 6.11-18 (in Francese and Smith, pp. 361-366). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 1,2.

Topics: Founding Myths, the Monarchy, Roman "Ethnicity" and Identity, Roman Political Offices, the Roman Constitution

Quiz 1 Due:

Unit 2: Roman Society and the Conquest of Italy 9/8/21, 9/9/21

There is NO CLASS 9/6/21, we will meet WED 9/8/21.

Readings: Polybius 3.47-56 (in Francese and Smith. pp. 366-367); Laws of the Twelve Tables (in Francese and Smith pp. 503–544). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 3.

Topics: Conflict of the Orders, Imperialism, *Cursus Honorum*, Italic Peoples, Rhetoric of Decline, Roman Values.

Quiz 2 Due: 9/12/21

Unit 3: Carthage and Greece 9/13/21, 9/16/21

Readings: Plutarch's *Life of Cato the Elder* (in Francese and Smith, pp. 332-353); Livy 21.30-38 (on Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 4.

Topics: Hannibal and the Carthaginians, Greece and Rome, Cato and Ennius, Intellectuals and Philosophy in Rome.

Quiz 3 Due: 9/19/21

Unit 4: Crisis, Civil Unrest and Slave Revolts 9/20/21, 9/23/21

Readings: Appian 1.6-16; 1.116-20 (in Francese and Smith, pp. 1-11); Plutarch's *Life of Tiberius Gracchus* (Canvas); Plautus *Miles Gloriosus* (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 5.

Topics: Gracchi Brothers, Land Reform, "Demagoguery," Political Parties, Latin Literature and Genre.

Quiz 4 Due: 9/26/21

Unit 5: Marius, Sulla, and the Crisis of the Republic 9/27/21, 9/30/21

Readings: Plautus *Miles Gloriosus* (Canvas); Inscriptions about slaves (in Francese and Smith, pp. 473-476. Religion/Philosophy primary readings (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 6, 7.

Topics: Rhetoric and Philosophy in Ancient Rome; Slavery and Society.

Quiz 5 Due: 10/3/21

Unit 6: The "First Triumvirate" Cicero, and Julius Caesar; Religion 10/4/21, 10/7/21

Readings: Selections of Cicero's Letters (in Francese and Smith, pp. 46-74); Selections from Catullus (in Francese and Smith, pp. 24-33); Religion/Philosophy primary readings (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 8.

Topics: Julius Caesar, Philosophy and Religion in the Late Republic

Quiz 6 Due: 10/10/21

Unit 7: Octavian, Cleopatra, and Mark Antony 10/11/21, 10/14/21

Readings: Plutarch, *Life of Marc Antony* (Canvas); Horace, *Odes* 1.37 (in Francese and Smith, p. 122-3). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* Ch. 8.

Topics: Cleopatra, Biography, the end of the Republic.

Quiz 7 Due: 10/17/21

Unit 8: The Age of Augustus 10/18/21, 10/21/21.

Readings: *Aeneid*, translated by A. Mandelbaum, Books 1-6 (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* ch 9.

Topics: The Roman "Revolution," Poetry and Empire; culture in the Age of Augustus.

Quiz 8 Due: 10/24/21, MIDTERM DUE

Unit 9: The Age of Augustus II 10/25/21, 10/28/21

Readings: TBC

Topics: Archaeology, Augustan Building Program

Quiz 9 Due: 10/31/21

Unit 10: The Age of Augustus III 11/1/21, 11/4/21

Readings: Poetry of Sulpicia (in Francese and Smith, pp.431-432) Poetry of Ovid (in Francese and Smith, pp.227-257) *Res Gestae* of Augustus (in Francese and Smith, pp.14-22)

Topics: Women in the Age of Augustus, Augustan Moral Reform, Propaganda.

Quiz 10 Due: 11/07/21

Unit 11: Julio-Claudians and the Year of the Four Emperors 11/8/21, 11/11/21

Readings: Selections from Seneca's Philosophical Letters and the *Apocolocyntosis* (in Francese and Smith, pp.394-418); Suetonius, *Life of Nero* (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* Ch. 10.

Topics: Freedmen, the Praetorian Guard, Stoicism, Slavery.

Quiz 11 Due: 11/14/21

Unit 12: The Flavians and the Antonines 11/15/21, 11/18/21

Readings: Selections from Martial (in Francese and Smith, pp. 202-204) Inscriptions about Festivals and games (in Francese and Smith, pp. 488-494) Selections from Juvenal (In Francese and Smith, pp.127-141). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* Ch. 11, 12.

Topics: Flavian Buildings Projects, Roman Spectacle, Satire, Jewish Communities in the Roman Empire, the Five "Good" (?) Emperors.

Quiz 12 Due: 11/21/21

PAPER DUE

Unit 13: Crisis of the 3rd Century, Diocletian and Constantine 11/22, 12/2/21

Readings: Perpetua, *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas* (in Francese and Smith, pp. 257-266); Selections from Augustine *City of God* (Canvas). Boatwright *et al*, *The Romans* Ch. 13.

Topics: Monasticism, The Rise of Christianity.

Quiz 13 Due: 12/05/21

Unit 14: Christianity in Late Antiquity 12./6/21, 12/9/21

Readings: TBC Mitchell, *A History of Later Roman Empire* ch. 3 (Canvas). Rosenwein *A Short History ...* ch.1 (Canvas).

Topics: The Fall of Rome.

Quiz 14 Due: 12/13/21

FINAL EXAM: 12/21/21, 3-6pm

Academic Integrity:

<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. 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>.

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.