

Roman Civilization – 21:510:256
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm-3:50pm, Conklin Hall 342

Instructor: David J. Wright

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:20pm-2:20pm

Course Website: Via Blackboard (if you do not have access, send me an email).

Course Description

This course will explore the Romans from the mythical founding in 753 BCE to the fall of the Byzantine Empire in the 15th century CE. We will examine the Romans not just simply from an historical, but also from a social and political lenses. In addition, we will take into consideration their art, material culture, literature, philosophy, and religion to see what aspects of Roman culture we can glean from these media.

Using critical thinking and reasoning skills, students will consider how the modern world views the Romans through the examination of secondary sources, but will also take into account and closely analyze primary sources, accounts from the ancients themselves. We will also observe how the Roman World has influenced and continues to influence our own world.

Course Materials

Potter, D. 2014. *Ancient Rome: A New History*. 2nd edition. Thames and Hudson. (ISBN: 9780500291245)

*Other will course materials will be available on Blackboard or via the internet.

Rubric

Pop Quizzes: 5%

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 10%

Midterm: 25%

Papers: 20%

Final: 30%

Grade Scale:

A = 100-90

B+ = 89.9-85

B = 84.9-80

C = 79.9-75

C+ = 74.9-70

D = 69.9-65

I will **NOT** negotiate grades.

I also do not give extra credit.

Learning Goals

- Student is able to understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Student is able to explain and assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- Student is able to explain the development of some aspect of society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Student is able to employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.

Pop Quizzes

Short, unannounced quizzes will be frequent to make sure students are doing the readings. The questions will be broad or students will choose the question they can answer best out of a selection of questions.

Attendance

Attendance in this course mandatory and will be taken daily. Each student is allowed THREE unexcused absences. After that, each successive absence will lower the your grade.

**** 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. ****

Participation

The success of the class as a whole is dependent on an active class community, and no less is each individual student's success dependent on his or her effort. Asking questions counts as participation, and is useful to other members of the class who may want to know the same things—so don't be shy! Do be aware that participation factors into your final 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.

Papers

You complete two source analysis papers of 2-3 pages. Students will choose from a selection of primary sources. The due dates of these papers are listed below on the syllabus. Late papers will **NOT** be accepted. In these papers you will do each of the following:

- describe the source and its provenance
- explain both the problems and possibilities that the nature of the source presents
- explain how the source increases our knowledge of Ancient Rome
- assess the usefulness of the source for increasing our understanding of physical, historical or social phenomena in the Roman World.

Punctuality

It is imperative that you be punctual for class. If you are more than 20 minutes late for class, I will mark that as an absence.

Disabilities

Under Federal Law, the University is required to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students with documentable disabilities, in legally defined categories. **If you have special needs in this course, please have your College coordinator contact me by the end of the second week of class.**

Cellphone policy: Cellphones should be off during class. If I see someone's cellphone out during an exam, he or she will receive an immediate 0 grade for that exam.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Be polite to your classmates. Try to learn others' names. Consider others' feelings before you speak: intolerance is unacceptable.
- Be active in group work, but allow others' input.
- Do not text, answer phone calls, apply make up, play games, or listen to music during the class period. Any of these infractions or similar will result in an immediate deduction from your attendance grade.
- Consistent tardiness will also result in an immediate deduction from your attendance grade. I can be understanding if you have a difficult trip to campus or a class that often goes over time, but you have to let me know about the situation beforehand.
- If you need to leave class early for an appointment, inform me of it at the beginning of class.

Policy on Academic Integrity: No act of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. 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/academic-integrity-policy/>. All students are required to include the Rutgers honor pledge on all major course assignments submitted for grading: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Reading Assignments

Readings are to be done on the day on which they are listed.

Trigger Warning:

This course will deal with sensitive material such as violence, sexuality, and racism on a daily basis. These topics will come up both in the reading and in class discussion. If any student thinks he or she may have trouble dealing with such topics, I suggest that he or she drop the course immediately.

Schedule¹

Tuesday, 9/1/2015
Course Introduction

¹ Do note that this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Thursday, 9/3/ 2015: Early Rome and Myth

Potter, p. 19-46

Selections from Livy (See Blackboard)

Tuesday, 9/8/2015

NO CLASS: Monday Schedule

Thursday, 9/10/2015: The Formation of the Republic

Potter, p. 47-56

Selections from Polybius (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 9/15/2015: The Conquest of Italy

Potter, p. 59-73

Thursday, 9/17/2015: The Conquest of the Mediterranean (the Punic Wars)

Potter, p. 73-104

Selections from Polybius (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 9/22/2015: Women and Slavery during the Roman Republic

Article on Women on Blackboard

Article on Slavery on Blackboard

Thursday, 9/24/2015: Roman Religion during the Republic

Article on Roman Religion on Blackboard

Tuesday, 9/29/2015: Civil Unrest

Potter, p. 106-177

Plutarch, Life of Tiberius Gracchus (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/1/2015: Marius

Potter, p. 117- 124

Plutarch, Life of Marius (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 10/6/2015: Sulla

Potter, p. 124-140

Plutarch, Life of Sulla (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/8/2015: Rise of Pompey the Great

Potter, p. 140-143

Plutarch, Life of Pompey (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 10/13/2015: Cicero and the War with Catiline

Potter, p. 143-148

Selections from Cicero's *In Catilinam* and Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae* (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/15/2015: The "First Triumvirate"

Potter, p. 150-168

Selections from Catullus and Lucretius (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 10/20/2015: Julius Caesar
Suetonius, Life of Julius Caesar (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/22/2015: Midterm Exam

Tuesday, 10/27/2015: The Second Triumvirate
Potter, p. 168-178
Plutarch, Life of Marc Antony (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/29/2015: The Age of Augustus I
Potter, p. 178-193

ESSAY #1 DUE

Tuesday, 11/3/2015: The Age of Augustus II
Selections from Augustan poets (see Blackboard)
Selections from Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus* (See Blackboard)

Thursday, 11/5/2015: Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius
Potter, p. 193-201
Suetonius, Life of Caligula (See Blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/10/2015: Nero and the Year of the Four Emperors
Potter, p. 201-208
Selections from Lucan and Seneca (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 11/12/2015: The Flavians
Potter, p. 210-217
Suetonius, Lives of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/17/2015: The Five Good Emperors
Potter, p. 217-227
Selections from the writings of Marcus Aurelius (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 11/19/2015: The Five Good Emperors
Potter, p. 217-227
Selections from the writings of Marcus Aurelius (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/24/2015: Crisis of the Third Century
Potter, p. 272-286

Thursday, 11/26/2015: NO CLASS!!!

Tuesday, 12/1/2015: Diocletian and Constantine
Potter, p. 286-310

Thursday, 12/3/2015: Christianity during the Roman Empire
Selections from Celsus and Augustine (see Blackboard)

Tuesday, 12/8/2015: The Theodosian Dynasty and the Collapse of the West

Potter, p. 311-329

Selections from Claudian (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 12/10/2015: The Byzantines

Potter, p. 329-354

ESSAY #2 DUE

Final exam: Thursday, December 17th (11:45-2:45)