

21H.302
THE ANCIENT WORLD: ROME

Spring 2010

Lectures: MW 12-1

Recitation: R01: Th 12-1
R02: F 1-2
R03: F 3-4

Prof. Will Broadhead History Faculty

Prof. Steven Ostrow History Faculty

Prof. Kate Delaney Literature Section

READINGS AND RESOURCES

1) Books for the course (available at the MIT Bookstore):

Our main textbooks for the course will be the following, abbreviated respectively to *The Romans* and *As the Romans Did* on the schedule of readings below:

- M.T. Boatwright et al., *The Romans: from village to empire* (2004).
- J.-A. Shelton (ed.), *As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History*, 2nd edition (1998).

The following translations of Greek and Latin masterpieces will be consulted frequently. If you choose not to purchase your own copy of each, please remember that you will be expected to have some version of the text with you when you come to lectures and recitations.

- Livy, *The Rise of Rome, Books 1-5*, translated with Introduction and Notes by T.J. Luce (Oxford World's Classics 1999).
- Plutarch, *Roman Lives*, translated by R. Waterfield with Introduction and Notes by P.A. Stadter (Oxford World's Classics 2000).
- Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, translated with Introduction and Notes by C. Edwards (Oxford World's Classics 2001)
- Tacitus, *The Annals*, translated by A.J. Woodman (Hackett 2004).

2) Additional readings on the course website:

Further reading material will be made available on the course website for this subject. Such material is clearly distinguished on the schedule below.

3) Useful web-sites:

Forum Romanum www.forumromanum.org
A range of ancient sources in translation; a few articles on life in ancient Rome.

JSTOR www.jstor.org
The Scholarly Journal Archive.

Lacus Curtius penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home
More ancient sources in translation; useful collections of photos of Latin inscriptions and theatres *inter alia*; a few old secondary works on ancient Rome.

Perseus Digital Library www.perseus.tufts.edu
A wealth of information: plenty of translations of Latin and Greek sources; lots of photographs of ancient sites; much other useful material.

ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION

20%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:

1. Attendance

You are required to attend both the Monday and Wednesday lectures and your weekly recitation.

2. Reading

You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to lecture/recitation a copy of any reading that has been assigned.

3. Active participation

You are expected to arrive at your weekly recitations having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and *actively* to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

60%

There are FOUR required writing assignments for this subject: THREE papers of 7 pages, ONE of which must be revised and resubmitted, in accordance with the guidelines for CI subjects. Each assignment will count for **15%** of your final grade.

In order to catch any early problems as well as to allow time for thoughtful revision, you will be required to revise and resubmit one of the first two papers due. As part of the revision process, *all* students will be required to attend a 30-minute tutorial with the writing instructor for this course, Kate Delaney, at which you will have the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving the quality of your writing. In order to spread out the demand for tutorials, half the class will revise Paper #1 and the other half will revise Paper #2.

Due dates for the writing assignments are as follows

Paper #1	Feb 22
Revision of Paper #1	March 15
Paper #2	April 5
Revision of Paper #2	April 26
Paper #3	May 7

Suggested paper topics and guidelines will be distributed in due course.

FINAL EXAM

20%

A final exam of 1½ hours will be given during the regular examination period. Full details of the expectations for the exam will be circulated in due course.

Provisional Schedule of Meetings

WEEK 1

2/3 **Introduction**

2/4 & 5 NO RECITATIONS

WEEK 2

2/8 **Foundation Myths**
Reading:
○ *The Romans*, pp. 1-31.

2/10 **Monarchy to Republic**
Reading:
○ *The Romans*, pp. 32-48.

2/11 & 12 **Discussion 1: Livy's Early Rome**
Reading:
○ Livy, Preface and 1.1-70, 2.1, 2.9-14 (pp. 3-70, 71-72, 79-86).

WEEK 3 → NB Monday class schedule on Tuesday ←

2/16 **Social Conflict in the Early Republic**
Reading:
○ *The Romans*, pp. 48-57.
○ Livy 2.23-40 (pp. 93-113)
○ 'The 12 Tables' (available on the course website)

2/17 **The Roman Constitution I**
Reading:
○ *The Romans*, pp. 58-75.
○ Polybius, Book 6 excerpts (available on the course website)

2/18 & 19 **Discussion 2: Livy Book 5**
Reading:
○ Livy 5.1-55 (pp. 282-341).

WEEK 4

2/22

Rome's Republican Empire (4th to 2nd c.)

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 75-135.

→ PAPER #1 DUE ←

2/24

Consequences of Empire I: the élites

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 136-165.

2/25 & 26

Discussion 3: DEBATE – Roman Imperialism

Reading:

- Sources for Roman Imperialism, from Champion (ed.), *Roman Imperialism*, pp. 67-94.

WEEK 5

3/1

Consequences of Empire II: arming and farming

Reading:

- Plutarch, *Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus* (pp. 77-115).

3/3

Popular Politics from the Gracchi to Marius

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 166-192.

3/4 & 5

Discussion 4: Civil War and Sulla's Dictatorship

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 193-204.
- Plutarch, *Sulla* (pp. 169-215).

WEEK 6

3/8

Pompey and the Special Command

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 204-224.

3/10

Julius Caesar from the 'Triumvirate' to the Rubicon

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 225-266.
- Cicero's *Letters*, selections (available on the course website)

3/11 & 12

Discussion 5: DEBATE – The Assassination of Caesar

Reading:

- Plutarch, *Julius Caesar*, 28-69 (pp. 325-359).
- Plutarch, *Brutus*, 1-20 (available on the course website)

WEEK 7

3/15

The Constitution II: Augustus and the Principate

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 267-293.

→ REVISION of PAPER #1 DUE ←

3/17

The Hearts and Minds of Augustan Rome

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 293-316.

3/18 & 19

Discussion 6: Augustus

Reading:

- Suetonius, *Augustus* (pp. 43-97).
- Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-11 (pp. 1-9).
- *The Achievements of the Divine Augustus* (available on the course website)

3/22-3/26

SPRING VACATION - NO LECTURES

WEEK 8

3/29

The Emperor and the Élites

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 317-337.
- Tacitus, *Annals* 12.64-13.58 (pp. 242-274).

3/31

The Emperor and the Plebs

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 379-392.
- Tacitus, *Annals* 14.1-14.65 (pp. 275-306).

4/1 & 2

Discussion 7: Tacitus' Rome

Reading:

- Tacitus, *Annals* 15.18-15.25 and 15.32-16.35 (pp. 314-318 and 320-355).
- Review Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-11 and 12.64-13.58 (pp. 1-9 and 242-306).

WEEK 9

4/5

High Politics from the Julio-Claudians to the Flavians

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 353-379.

→ PAPER #2 DUE ←

4/7

High Politics from Vespasian to Commodus

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 393-406.

4/8 & 9

Discussion 8: Suetonius' Bad Emperors

Reading:

- Suetonius, *Caligula* (pp. 136-167).
- Suetonius, *Nero* (pp. 195-227).

WEEK 10

4/12

The Roman Army

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 301-304; 338-339.
- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 291-316 (pp. 243-267).

4/14

Domestic Life in Imperial Rome

Reading:

- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 79-98 (pp. 59-78).

4/15 & 16

Discussion 9: Roman Religion and the Imperial Cult

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 347-352; 391-392
- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 402-443 (pp. 359-406).

WEEK 11

4/19

NO LECTURE – PATRIOTS DAY

4/21

The Mediterranean Economy

Reading:

- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 161-197 (pp. 123-162).

4/22 & 23

Discussion 10: Roman Slavery

Reading:

- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 198-250 (pp. 163-202).

WEEK 12

4/26 **Ancient Rome on Film**

→ REVISION of PAPER #2 DUE ←

4/28 **From the Severans to the 3rd Century Crisis**

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 406-438.
- 'Crisis' source selections (available on the course website)

4/30 **Discussion 11: MFA Roman Gallery (Optional)**

WEEK 13

5/3 **Recovery: Diocletian & the Tetrarchy**

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 438-446.

5/5 **Constantine and the Impact of Christianity**

Reading:

- *The Romans*, pp. 425-430 and 447-457.
- Sources on the conversion of Constantine (available on the course website).

5/6 & 7 **Discussion 12: Christian persecution from Nero to Diocletian**

Reading:

- Tacitus, *Annals* 15.38-44 (pp. 322-326).
- *As the Romans Did*, nos. 444-453 (pp. 406-417).

→ PAPER #3 DUE by 5:00pm on Friday, May 7 ←

WEEK 14

5/10 **Fall of Rome and Birth of Byzantium**

Reading:

- A. Cameron, *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity*, pp. 12-32 (available on the course website).

5/12 **Ending Roman history**

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.302 The Ancient World: Rome
Spring 2005

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