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21H.302 The Ancient World: Rome  
Spring 2005

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## MIT 21.H302 (CI/HASS-D): ANCIENT WORLD - ROME (Spring 2007)

Prof. Steven E. Ostrow  
History Faculty

Writing Tutor: Ms. Kate Delaney

Lectures: Tues., Thurs. 12:00

Recitations: Friday 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

Required Textbooks (on sale at MIT Bookstore):

- Modern Authors: Boatwright, Gargola, & Talbert, The Romans: From Village to Empire (Oxford ISBN 0-1-9511876-6)  
Shelton, J.-A., As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook (Oxford, ISBN 0-1-9508974)
- Ancient Texts: Apuleius, The Golden Ass (Indiana 0-253-20036-9)  
Livy, History of Rome: Books 1-5 (Hackett 0-87220-723-3)  
Petronius Satyricon (Penguin USA 0-14-044489-0)  
Plutarch, Makers of Rome (Penguin Penguin USA 0-14-044158-1)  
Suetonius, The Twelve Caesars (Penguin USA 0-14-044921-3)  
Tacitus, The Annals of Imperial Rome (Penguin 0-14-044060-7)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance at Lectures (Tuesday & Thursday) & **Discussion** (Friday)

Exams: **Mid-term Exam**: (50 minutes long) Tuesday, April 10 (**10%** of course grade)

**Final exam**: (90 minutes) date to be determined (**15%** of course grade)

Full description of the exams will be distributed in due course.

Discussion: As required for CI/HASS-D courses, active, **informed participation** in your weekly discussion section is required -- and warmly encouraged (based on reading and thinking about assigned texts, and on listening to the views of others both in lecture & in section meetings). (= **20%** of course grade).

Papers: **Four writing assignments** required (as per CI-HASS-D- standards):

3 7-page ESSAYS (double-spaced 8 ½ x 11 pp.) (each=**15%** of course grade);

a REVISION of essay #1 or #2 (= **10%**).

Technical requirements and topics to be announced. All papers are due at the START of the lecture hour on the given due-date. Unexcused late papers will incur penalties: one partial grade step (as from A to A-, or from A- to B+) for each day late. (Excuses accepted only for serious & documented reasons of health or other genuine emergency – NOT merely for “MIT work crunch.”)

ESSAY REVISIONS: Required for CI/HASS-D courses: 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 essays due. Students who receive a grade lower than “straight-B” (=85) on essay #1 will be required to revise that paper; all others may choose which of their first two essays they prefer to revise. As part of the revision process, all students must attend a 30-minute individual tutorial with Ms. Kathleen Delaney (the writing tutor for this course), at which you will have the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving the quality of your writing.

DUE DATES: Paper #1: February 27 (Tues.)

Paper #2 March 20 (Tues.)  
Revised #1 or #2: April 19 (Thurs.-NOT Tuesday!)  
Paper #3: May 10 (again, Thurs.)

**(No written work will be accepted after the date of the final exam.)**

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

Forum Romanum [www.forumromanum.org](http://www.forumromanum.org)  
A range of ancient sources in translation; a few articles on life in ancient Rome.

JSTOR [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)  
The Scholarly Journal Archive.

Lacus Curtius [penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home](http://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](http://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.

The Stoa Consortium [www.stoa.org](http://www.stoa.org) (several open-access online projects)

## APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

(reading should be completed by date indicated; \*asterisks indicate material either posted at the course class website, or photocopied, to be handed out in class)

February

6 T: Introduction

8 Th: Italy before the Romans: Greeks in the West

Reading: Romans (=The Romans: From Village to Empire), Chap. 1, pp. 1-28

(No Discussion this week)

13 T: The Etruscan City-States

Reading: Romans, Chap. 1, pp. 28-31

15 Th: Early Rome: Rome of the Kings, Etruscan Rome, Birth of the "Republic"

Reading: Romans, Chap. 2, pp. 32-57  
Shelton, pp. 381-82 (#423: on the Lupercalia, February 15!)

16 F: Discussion #1: Livy -- Historian, or Spinner of Tales?

Reading: Livy, Book I (pp. 1-83)

[20 T: No Tuesday Classes -- Monday Class Schedule Held instead]

22 Th: Toward a United, Roman Italy

Reading: Romans, Chap. 3, pp. 58-95  
Shelton, 375 (#416), 377 (#418)

23 F: Discussion #2: The Nature of Roman Society: Plebeians & Patricians, Patrons & Clients

Reading: Livy, selections from Books 2, 3, & 5: 2.1 (pp. 84-5), 2.9-15 (94-102), 2.23-40 (110-33); 3.32-34 (202-05); 5. 32-55 (374-404)

Shelton, Chap. 1 (pp. 4-15); p. 95 (#128); pp. 243-52 (#291-93; #291=  
Polybius on Roman army during the Republic)

\*The Twelve Tables

27 T: PAPER NO. 1 (LIVY) DUE

The Growth of Empire I -- Rome Dominates Italy -- Wars against Carthage (Hannibal)

Reading: Romans, Chap. 4, pp. 97-119  
Shelton, 137 (#175), 142 (#179), 142 (#180), 298 (#335), 377  
(#417), 392 (#434), 398-99 (#437)

March

1 Th: The Growth of Empire II -- Rome's Mastery of the Mediterranean

Reading: Romans, Chap. 4, pp. 119-34

## 2 F: Discussion #3: The Nature of Roman Imperialism

Reading: Plutarch's Life of Cato (in Makers of Rome, pp. 119-51)  
review Shelton, pp. 244-49 (#291: Polybius on Roman army)

## 6 T: The Consequences of Empire

Reading: Chap. 5, pp. 136-53

## 8 Th: The "Roman Revolution" Begins: The Gracchi Brothers; Marius and Sulla

Reading: Romans, Chap. 5, pp. 153-65; Chap. 6, pp. 166-92; Chap. 7, pp. 193-204

9 F: Discussion #4: Why a "Roman Revolution"?

Reading: Plutarch's Lives of Tiberius Gracchus & Gaius Gracchus (in Makers of Rome,  
153-74, and 175-93)  
Shelton, p. 151 (#187: Appian re: the Gracchi)

## 13 T: Political Life in the Age of Cicero, Pompey, and Caesar

Reading: Romans, Chap. 7, pp. 204-23  
Shelton, p. 139 (#177: Plutarch on Crassus' money-making); 297 (#334:  
Sallust re: Sempronia)

## 15 Th: Toward the First Triumvirate

Reading: Romans, Chap. 8, pp. 225-39

## 16 F: Discussion #5: The "External" and the "Internal" Faces of Imperial Conquest

Reading: Shelton, p. 179 (#219: slave rebellion); & 268-87, ch. XII ("The  
Provinces," incl. #321--Cicero on the ruthless governor Verres); pp.  
374 (#415), 394 (#435)

## 20 T: PAPER NO. 2 DUE

Caesar's Career: Conflict with Pompey; Second Triumvirate

Reading: Romans, Chap. 8, pp. 239-65  
Shelton, p. 331 (#377: Caesar's "Games")  
Suetonius' Life of Julius Caesar (= pp. 13-53 in The Twelve Caesars)  
Plutarch's Brutus, chap.'s 8-10 (pp. 229-32), & 17-20 (pp. 237-41)

## 22 Th: Augustus: Between Republic and Empire

Reading: Romans, Chap. 9, pp. 267-93  
Shelton, 29-30 (#38-40: Augustan Legislation on Fertility), pp. 226-36  
(Early Imperial Government), 236-42 (Roman Legislation in general),  
252-67 ("Army during the Imperial Period"); pp. 404-405 (#440:  
Augustus' Tolerance for the Jews)

## 23 F: Discussion #6: Did Caesar Deserve To Die?

Reading: Review assignment for March 20 (above)

(March 26-30: VACATION)

April

3 T: NO CLASS (Passover)

5 Th: The Augustan Legacy: The Julio-Claudian Emperors

Reading: Romans, Chap. 9, pp. 293-316, Chap. 10, pp. 317-35  
Shelton, 132 (#169), 332 (#378), 337 (#380), 387-88  
(#429-31), 405-406 (#442-43), 407-408 (#445-46)

6 F: Discussion #7: Augustus

Reading: Shelton 55-58 (#78: Suet. on Augustus' philandering, & his family tree)  
Suetonius' Life of Augustus (= pp. 54-112);  
Augustus' (public!) autobiography, the \*Res Gestae ("Accomplishments")  
Tacitus, Annals of Imperial Rome, pp. 31-42

10 T: MID-SEMESTER EXAM

(covering all lectures & readings through Friday, April 6)

12 Th: Crisis: A.D. 69, The "Year of the Four Emperors"; a New (2nd) Dynasty Established

Reading: Romans, Chap. 10, pp. 335-51, Chap. 11, pp. 353-64

13 F: Discussion #8: The Emperor Claudius

Reading: Tacitus, Annals 231-83  
Suetonius, Life of Claudius (pp. 185-212)

17 T: HOLIDAY (Patriots Day)

April

19 Th: REVISIONS OF PAPER NO. 1 or NO. 2 DUE

Daily Life, Private Life, Quality of Life in Roman Italy

Reading: Shelton, chap. IV (59-78: "Housing and City Life"); and pp. 310-13 (#352-54: Baths), and 329-58 (#377-401: Spectacles, Circus, Theater, Arena);

Optional: try sampling Shelton, chap.'s III ("Marriage"), V ("Domestic & Personal Concerns"), VI ("Education"), XIII ("Women")

20 F: Discussion #9: Roman Slavery

Reading: Shelton, pp. 100-101 (#134: a slave as teacher?); chap. VIII  
(pp. 163-85: "Slaves"), chap. IX (pp. 186-202: "Freedmen")  
Petronius, The Satyricon (§ 26-77, at pp. 50-91, "Dinner with Trimalchio")

[NOTE: SATURDAY, APRIL 21 is Rome's 2,760th Birthday: 753 + 2007 -- ENJOY!]

24 T: The Second Century A.D.; Romanization

Reading: Romans, Chap. 11, pp. 364-92; Chap. 12, pp. 393-406

26 Th: Social Climbing under the Roman Empire

Reading: Apuleius, The Golden Ass, pp. 31-141

27 F: Discussion #10: Roman Provincial Life

Reading: Apuleius, The Golden Ass, pp. 142-234

May

1 T: How to Rule an Empire

3 Th: Christianity: Successes and Crises

Reading: Background -- The Wide Range of Religious Experience in Roman Empire:  
Romans, pp. 18-19 (earliest Rome), 45-47 (early Latium's cults), 54, 61, 137 (politics in religion), 71-72, ("The City, Its Gods, Its Priests"); 115 (adoption of "foreign" cults), 116 (vows), 142-43 (Bacchanalia of 186 B.C.); etc. (see index to Romans)

on Early Christianity itself:

Shelton, 406-17 (#444-53)

Romans, pp. 334 (Nero), 425-30 (general), 450-57 (Constantine)

May

4 F: Discussion #11: The Rise of Christianity

Reading: Apuleius, Golden Ass, Book 11 (pp. 235-55)

review assignments in Romans and Shelton for May 3, especially  
Shelton, pp. 409-12, #447-48 (Trajan-Pliny correspondence --  
"How to deal with the Christians?")

\*excerpt from Acts of the Christian Martyrs: tale of Saints Perpetua & Felicitas  
\*accounts of Eusebius and of Zosimus on the conversion of emperor  
Constantine

8 T: Crisis in the Third Century (Political, Military, Economic)

Reading: Romans, Chap. 12, pp. 406-25; Chap. 13, pp. 431-38

10 Th: PAPER NO. 3 DUE

Third Century "Recovery" -- Diocletian

[Michael Rostovtzeff, a great historian of ancient Greece & Rome and a traumatized witness to the Russian Revolution, asked "whether it was worth while to save the Roman Empire in order to make it a vast prison for scores of millions of men"!]

Reading: Shelton 129-32 (#168: Diocletian's Edict on Prices)

\*Preface to Diocletian's Edict on Prices

Romans, Chap. 13, pp. 438-46

11 F: "Discussion #12": at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (to Etruscan/Roman Collections)  
details to be announced (your MIT ID gains you free entry!)

(Huntington Ave.: By "T": Green Line, "E" train, "Museum" stop)

15 T: Constantine: The New Rome

Reading: Romans, Chap. 13, pp. 447-57

17 Th: The "Fall" -- or Transformation? -- of the Roman Empire