



CLAS/HIST 330: Roman Empire

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2019

Instructor: Giampiero Bevagna, Laurea

Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: None

Class Hours: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Type: Standard Course

Lab Fee: TBA

Course Description

The course explores the political, social, economic and cultural history of Rome and its Empire, with a special focus on the history of the early Roman Empire (the so-called Principate: from Caesar to Commodus – from the first century BCE to the second century CE). The course will begin by reviewing and critiquing the story of a small village built on the Tiber's bank that managed first to unify the Italian peninsula under its military and political leadership and then to become one of the leading cities in the Mediterranean basin and eventually the capital of the Ancient World, whose dominion, at its heyday, stretched from the Hercules' Columns in the West to Mesopotamia in the East. This review will end with discussing how and why the Imperial system finally changed and gave birth to a new form of civilization, which eventually became what is considered the modern layout of Europe.

The course will include an examination of several aspects of Roman Civilization through a study of ancient evidence, both textual and material, and Rome's relationships with other contemporary peoples. We will analyse the very meaning of "Roman Culture," and the very important contribution of the Hellenistic world. The understanding of the process of Romanization of the populations dominated by the Romans will play a significant role in the course in order to understand how the Roman Culture spread throughout the Mediterranean to become one of the pillars of our modern culture.

With the above approach, we will be focusing on some of Rome's more characteristic features: ranging from religion to art to society and politics. In the end, the goal is to "look at the Romans through the eyes of the Romans." The field trip to Rome, with her remains of ancient monuments and museums with major archaeological collections, will help students to enliven their picture of this culture and attain a richer and more complex understanding of the phenomena.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Learn the major events in the history of ancient Rome;
- Engage with both primary and secondary sources and to examine how authors of different time periods and social backgrounds present key issues;
- Explore the use of material remains (archaeological record) in learning about Roman culture; and

- Consider how Roman civilization influenced their culture, and, more generally, the development of world history.

Course Materials

Readings

Two course readers available at local copy shop. See “Umbra Institute Course Materials - Textbooks and Readers” handout provided in the orientation folder for more information.

Further Readings

Additional hand-outs will be provided in classes when needed.

Assessment

Participation	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Quiz x 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Oral report	30%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

Grades are based on:

Participation (10%)

Participation implies an active and constructive attitude from students in each class, especially when discussions are scheduled. The same is valid for the fieldtrip, where respectful and mature behavior is expected. Note also that participation in the guided visits at the archaeological museum of Perugia given by the students of the class of Archaeology during the Week of Special Academic Events is **mandatory** and will be taken into account.

Written Exams (60%)

The course includes 2 quizzes (10% each), a mid-term (20%) and a final (20%) examination. Items covered on each exam include lectures and readings (on the subjects discussed after the previous exam). Testing format will be multiple choice, T/F questions, map - glossary – chronology quizzes, short answer questions and short essays. Study guides will be distributed in advance.

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

Oral Reports (30%)

Each student will give ONE 30-minute oral report (worth 30%) on one Roman Emperor. Students are requested to provide a bibliography 1 class before the presentation. Wikipedia and other online sources are not to be used unless I approve them first. Hand-outs and slideshows are requested. More detailed guidelines will be provided.

Course Content Disclaimer

Some ancient art shows scenes of sexual intercourse or violent images.

Additional Course Information

Class sessions will be based on students **having read** the assigned material for class, either from primary sources (what the Romans themselves wrote) or from secondary sources (what moderns have written about the Romans). Classes will be a combination of discussion and lecture, leaning more heavily to discussion when the readings are primary sources.

Sometimes, I will provide open-ended discussion questions before the class meeting. I hope the entire class will prepare answers to the discussion questions and be ready to discuss their answers during class. It is therefore important for everyone to consider the readings carefully, to put some thought into the questions, and to prepare preliminary answers before coming to class.

During class sessions we will study important examples of Roman monuments and pieces of art. These examples will help students to understand and visualize better the fundamental aspects of Roman history and culture. Students are expected to pay great attention to these examples in order to be able to interpret images of Roman civilization and provide an informed, detailed discussion. Lectures will include material beyond the course readings for which students will be held responsible in the midterm and final exams. Therefore, it is critical for students to take notes, and class attendance is required.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **two “free” absences**, which do not need to be justified. **It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class)**. Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students’ grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. **Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason.** Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students’ final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class. **Computers and other electronic devices** cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Introduction To The Course: defining the Roman Empire. The Roman World: Time, Geography and Peoples.

The Sources of Roman History. The Legend of Rome.

Reading #1:

G. Shipley - J. Vanderspoel - D. Mattingly - L. Foxhall, (Eds.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of Classical Civilization*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, pp. 568-69; 762-63.

L. Adkins – R. A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in ancient Rome*, Oxford UP, 2004, pp. 110-15.

WEEK 2

The Roman Society And Religion.

Reading #2

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 40-50.

L. Adkins – R. A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in ancient Rome*, Oxford UP, 2004, pp. 274-80, 307-14.

The Roman Republic. The Roman Forum.

Reading #3

P. J. Aicher, *Rome Alive*, vol. I, Bolchazy-Carducci Publ., 2004, pp. 72-75, 86-89, 122-125.

WEEK 3

The Roman Army And the Triumphal Parade.

Reading #4

L. Adkins – R. A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in ancient Rome*, Oxford UP, 2004, pp.52-71, 94-95.

The Conquest of the Mediterranean.

Reading #5

M. Beard, *Classical World: The Epic History of Greece and Rome*, Penguin, 2006, pp. 229-240.

WEEK 4

The Roman Imperialism. The Consequences of the Conquest.

Reading #6

S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, Cambridge UP, 2004, pp. 93-99.

H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero: A History of Rome 133 BC to AD 68*, Routledge, 2010, pp. 1-10.

Quiz #1

The Crisis Of The Republic: The Social And Civil Wars. Marius And Sulla.

Reading #7

M. T Boatwright, D. J Gargola, N. Lenski, R. JA Talbert, *A Brief History of the Romans*, Oxford UP, 2013, pp. 92-98, 99-105, 110-122.

WEEK 5

Pompey the Great And Caesar.

Reading #8

S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, Cambridge UP, 2004, pp. 130-158.

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 213-16.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Enhanced Edition, Wadsworth, 2010, pp.47-59.

Julius Caesar: Working On The Primary Sources

Reading #9

Suetonius, *The Life of Julius Caesar*.

WEEK 6

Octavian: The End Of The Republic.

Reading #10

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 217-30.

Octavian: The End Of The Republic.

WEEK 7

Review

MIDTERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 8

Augustus And The Principate.

Readings from Course Packet #2

Reading #11

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 250-78.

Augustus: The Birth Of A New Rome.

Reading #12

N. H. Ramage – A. Ramage, *Roman Art*, Prentice Hall, 2005, pp. 101-108, 111-122.

WEEK 9

The Julio-Claudians: Tiberius And Caius.

Reading #13

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 294-96.

S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, Cambridge UP, 2004, pp. 192-199.

The Julio-Claudians: Claudius And Nero.

Reading #13

S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, Cambridge UP, 2004, pp. 199-209.

WEEK 10

The Flavians. The Palatine Hill.

Reading #14

M. T. Boatwright - D. J. Gargola - N. Lenski - R. JA Talbert, *The Romans: From Village to Empire*, Oxford UP, 2004, pp. 353-364.

Josephus, *The Jewish War*, 7, 3-6.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Enhanced Edition, Wadsworth, 2010, pp. 126-137.

The “Five Good Emperors”. Nerva And Trajan. The Imperial Fora.

Reading #15

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 327-30.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Wadsworth, 2010, pp. 153-169.

A. Claridge, *Rome. Oxford Archaeological Guide*, Oxford UP, 1998, pp. 146-157.

Fieldtrip To Rome

WEEK 11

NO CLASS

Quiz #2

Spectacles And Entertainments: The Coliseum And The Circus Maximus.

Reading #16

L. Adkins – R. A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in ancient Rome*, Oxford UP, 2004, pp. 386-89.

P. Connolly, *The Ancient City*, Oxford UP, 1998, pp. 176-181 + 190-217.

WEEK 12

Emperor Hadrian

Reading #17

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 331-36.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Wadsworth, 2010, pp. 171-185.

The Antonines.

Reading #18

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 336-42.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Wadsworth, 2010, pp. 191-192, 199-201.

WEEK 13

The Severans.

Reading #19

M. Ward – F. M. Heichelheim – C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2016, pp. 367-81.

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Wadsworth, 2010, pp. 231-234, 238-245.

Final review

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester.

Bibliography

- C. S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, (Cambridge UP 2004)
- D. S. Potter, ed., *A companion to the Roman Empire* (Blackwell 2006)
- M. Le Glay – J. L. Voisin – Y. Le Bohec, *A History of Rome*, 3rd ed., (Blackwell 2005)
- L. Adkins - R.A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome* (Oxford UP 2004)
- M. T. Boatwright - D. J Gargola - N. Lenski, *A Brief History of the Romans* (Oxford UP 2013)
- M. Ward - F. M. Heichelheim - C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016)
- N. H. Ramage – A. Ramage, *Roman Art*, 5th ed., (Prentice Hall 2009)
- A. Claridge, *Rome. Oxford Archaeological Guide*, (Oxford UP 1998)
- F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, (Wadsworth 2010)
- P. Connolly, *The Ancient City*, (Oxford UP 1998)
- H. H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero: A History of Rome 133 BC to AD 68*, (Routledge 2010)