CLAS 271: Survey of Roman History (Fall, 2005)

Instructor: Fred K. Drogula, Ascension 323, PBX 5436, drogulaf@kenyon.edu, 427-2492
Office Hours: T TH. 11:30-1:30pm, W 2:30-4:00pm, and by appointment.

This course surveys the history of Rome from its founding to its fall, with a particular emphasis placed upon understanding Roman history and culture through the Romans’ own eyes. Considerable time will therefore be dedicated to close readings of ancient texts to understand how and why Roman history developed as it did.

Requirements:

Attendance:
Since this course will cover over 1,000 years of human history in a mere fifteen weeks, regular attendance in class is absolutely necessary to master the material. Students are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty; additional absences will result in a 1.5 point (10%) penalty to the student’s participation grade. Absence from class may be excused only by the instructor or by the Dean of the College. Students wishing to be excused from class should contact the instructor before the class they intend to miss.

Participation in discussion (15%):
Preparation for, and informed contribution to, class discussions are requirements of this course. Thoughtful and incisive comments are particularly valued. Students are expected to participate actively in focused discussions of readings and/or analyses of new materials.

Quizzes (10%):
Several unannounced quizzes will be given in the course of the semester to inspire students to prepare for class meetings. The first of these will be a map quiz on September 8th. The lowest quiz may be dropped, but missed quizzes may not be made up unless the student’s absence from class is excused (see above).

Midterm (20%):
Includes: identification and discussion of people, places, and things from readings and lectures; of passages from primary-source readings; and general thematic essay. Exams are closed-book. If a student misses the exam as the result of an unexcused absence, the exam may not be made up.

Final (30%):
Same as the midterm, but longer; it covers materials after the midterm only. The final exam is on Dec. 20th at 1:30pm.

7-Page Paper (25%):
Students must write one paper on either all of Livy’s The Early History of Rome or all of Tacitus’ Annals. Livy papers are due on September 29th, at the beginning of class, and Tacitus papers are due on November 17th, at the beginning of class. Paper topics will be handed out two
weeks before the paper is due. Both papers may be written for extra credit. Late papers will not be accepted.

The above not withstanding:

To pass the course it is necessary to take the midterm and final examinations, to submit an acceptable paper on an approved topic, and to attend discussion regularly. Late papers are penalized, and no work will be accepted after the date of the final examination.

Special Accommodations:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability which may impact your ability to carry out the requirements of this course as stated herein, you should contact Erin Salva (salvae@kenyon.edu) in the Office of Disability Services at PBX 5145 as soon as possible. Accommodations will be given in this course only with notification from the Coordinator of Disability services.

Academic Honesty:

All students are responsible for understanding—and adhering to—the College rules on academic honesty and plagiarism. If you are at all uncertain about these regulations, including the definition of plagiarism, you must consult the relevant sections in the Student Handbook.

Required Books:

MacMullen, R., *Roman Social Relations* (Yale, 1976)

Additional marked (*) readings are available online unless otherwise stated. Offline readings are on reserve in Olin Library. Web addresses for online readings are available on the last page of this syllabus.

Note: if you use different editions of these texts (i.e. a translation of the ancient author by a different modern translator), the wording of your text may differ from that used in class and on quizzes and exams!

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

8/30 The Founding of Rome and the Regal Period [95]
9/1 Rome’s Neighbors
Discussion: Livy and the Early History of Rome
Reading: Livy, *The Early History of Rome* Book 1 (=pp. 33-101)
Text pp. 32-59
9/6  Consensus and Roman Values
*Discussion*: The Roman Constitution
Reading: *Polybius, Histories* 6.1-58
  *Livy, The Early History of Rome*, 2.1-40 (=pp. 105-151)
9/8  Expansion and Consolidation
*Analysis*: Roman Religion
Reading: Text pp. 60-96

9/13  Transmarine Expansion
*Discussion*: Expansion and Imperialism
Reading: *Livy, Book 22
  Plutarch, *Cato the Elder* (in *Makers of Rome*, pp. 119-151)
9/15  Internal Consequence of Success
*Analysis*: Roman Strategy—Defensive or Offensive?
Reading: Text pp. 97-153
  **Map Quiz**

9/20  The Gracchi
*Debate*: What should be done with the Gracchi?
Reading: *Plutarch, Tiberius Gracchus* (in *Makers* pp. 153-174)
  *Gaius Gracchus* (in *Makers* pp. 175-193)
  Text pp. 153-165
9/22  Populares and Optimates
*Discussion*: Marius and Sulla
Reading: *Appian, Civil Wars* 1.20-107
  Text pp. 166-200

9/27  Pompey the Great and Cicero
*Analysis*: Late Republican Careers
Reading: Cicero, On the Command of Cnaeus Pompeius (pp. 33-70).
  Text pp. 204-221
9/29  Dinosaurs of the Late Republic
*Discussion*: Catiline
Reading: Cicero, *Against Catiline* 1 (pp. 71-93)
  *Sallust, The Conspiracy of Catiline* (pp. 175-233).
  Text pp. 221-224

**Livy Papers Due**

10/4  The First Triumvirate
*Analysis*: An Alliance or Conspiracy?
Reading: Text pp. 225-244
10/6  Civil War and Caesar, Dictator for Life
*Debate*: The Death of Caesar
Reading: *Suetonius, The Deified Julius Caesar* (pp. 1-44)
  *Plutarch, Brutus* (pp. 223-270)
  Text pp. 244-266
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td><strong>Reading Day</strong></td>
<td>[72]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>The Second Triumvirate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Analysis:</strong> The First and Second Triumvirates, a comparison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Cicero, Philippic Against Marcus Antonius (pp. 295-318)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text pp. 267-316</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td><strong>Midterm</strong></td>
<td>[70]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Founding of the Roman Empire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Augustus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: *Augustus, *Res Gestae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suetonius, <em>The Deified Augustus</em></td>
<td>pp. 45-107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>The Julio-Claudian Dynasty</td>
<td>[142]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Claudius</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Tacitus, <em>Annals</em> 1.1-15, 11.1-12.69 (pp. 1-11, 194-244)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suetonius, <em>The Deified Claudius</em></td>
<td>pp. 183-212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text pp. 317-332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Nero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Why did Nero Fail?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Suetonius, <em>The Life of Nero</em> (pp. 213-246)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text pp. 332-336</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Vespasian and the Flavians</td>
<td>[152]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Suetonius, <em>The Life of Vespasian</em> (pp. 281-295)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text pp. 353-364</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Analysis:</strong> Roman Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Provincial Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> How Did Things Get Done?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: R. MacMullen, <em>Roman Social Relations</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Economy and Romanization</td>
<td>[231]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Analysis:</strong> What is “Romanization”?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>The Five “Good” Emperors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Life in the Provinces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Apuleius, <em>The Golden Ass</em> (pp. 31-234)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text pp. 364-379, 393-406</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>The Third-Century Crisis</td>
<td>[90]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Text pp. 406-416, 431-438</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Analysis:</strong> The Imperial Roman Army</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>New Culture Heroes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Paganism and Christianity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Apuleius, <em>The Golden Ass</em> (pp. 235-255)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*The Acts of the Apostles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas
Text pp. 425-430

**Tacitus Papers Due

11/22 Break
11/24 Break

11/29 Diocletian
Discussion: A Totalitarian State?
Reading: Text pp. 438-446

12/1 Constantine
Discussion: The Conversion of Constantine
Reading: *J. Eadie, The Conversion of Constantine
Note: Eadie’s book is on reserve—leave ample time to read it.
Text pp. 447-458

12/6 The Fall: Political and Military Definitions
12/8 The Fall: Social and Economic Explanations
Discussion: The Fall of Rome
Reading: *Ammianus Marcellinus, History 14.11.1-15.3.11 (Gallus); 15.5.1-35 (Silvanus the Frank); 20.4.1-10, 20.8.1-9.9, 21.3.1-5.13, 22.4.1-9 (Julian’s revolt); 28.1.5-57 (Maximinus the Judge); 27.9.1, 28.6.1-29 (Romanus of Africa); 30.4.1-22 (legal matters).
*Libanius, Oration 47 (Paper format only)

12/13 Retrospective: What Was Rome?

Online Reading Assignments:

The online resources given here can be reached through the Fordham website (www.fordham.edu/halsall) or through The Perseus Project (www.perseus.org). NOTE: these are the translations that will be used in class and on exams. If you use another translation (i.e. same ancient author but different modern translator) be aware of this difference!


Appian, Civil Wars 1.20-107: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?lookup=App.+BC+1.4.27


The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas:

Eadie, The Conversion of Constantine (selections): Paper format only

Ammianus Marcellinus, History 14.11.1-15.3.11 (Gallus); 20.8.1-9.9, 21.3.1-5.13, 22.4.1-9 (Julian’s revolt); 27.9.1, 28.6.1-29 (Romanus of Africa); 30.4.1-22 (legal matters)

Libanius, Oration 47: Paper format only