

History 4485
The Roman Republic
Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Justin Stephens
Lecture: M W 12:30-1:45 Pafford 206
Office: TLC 3244
Office Hours: 9-10 and 2-3 M W; 10-12 F and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines the first 700 years of Rome's history from the founding of Rome to the fall of the Republic in the 1st century BCE. During this period, Rome grew from a small town in the middle of Italy into an empire that controlled the entire Mediterranean. There are two themes that will provide a framework for understanding the historical events of this period. First, is the question of Rome's rise to power: how and why was this small city-state able to control Italy and eventually the entire Mediterranean? An answer to this question will require an understanding of the means by which Rome expanded as well as an understanding of the social and political makeup of the Roman Republic. The second theme will be an examination of the role that the geographical empire played in the collapse of the Roman Republic.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course will:

- Have the ability to demonstrate both verbally and in writing a basic knowledge of Roman history.
- Have a better understanding of Roman philosophical, political, and cultural heritages that have helped to shape the modern western world.
- Learn the fundamental methods of historical inquiry.
- Have improved writing and critical thinking skills.
- Have an understanding of major historiographical trends in Roman history.

Course Requirements:

1. In addition to attending lectures, it is critical that you carefully read all assigned readings. There will be discussion of these readings throughout the semester during lecture.
2. There will be several short response papers, which are due at the start of lecture on the dates listed in the lecture schedule. These papers are designed to facilitate classroom discussions. There is also a 10-12 page research paper due April 21. For this paper, you will need at least three primary sources, three secondary books and three articles. The key to a good final paper is to get started early in the semester, because you will probably need books that our library does not have.
3. There will be a midterm and final exam. Both exams will consist of short essays and at least one long essay. For both the identifications and essays, you will need to demonstrate knowledge of material from lectures and primary source readings.

Grading:

Class Participation: 10%

Response Papers: 10 %

Midterm: 25%

Research Paper: 25%

Final: 30%

Miscellaneous:

There will be no make-up exams.

Late papers will not be accepted.

Grade information will not be given out via email.

The lecture schedule is tentative. Students are responsible to be in class in order to note any changes in the schedule.

Cheating:

Cheating of any kind will result in an "F" for the course and further disciplinary action may be taken.

Readings:

Ward, Heichelheim and Yeo, *A History of the Roman People* (Highly Recommended)

Shaw, *Spartacus and the Slave Wars*

Plutarch, *The Makers of Rome*

Additional reading selections will be on electronic reserve at the library, or handed out in class.

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments for Lecture:

Week 1:

Jan. 9 (W): Introduction

Week 2:

Jan. 14 (M): The Mediterranean World

Jan. 16 (W): From Monarchy to Republic

Week 3:

Jan. 21 (M): No Class

Jan. 23 (W): Heroes and Households (Read Livy selection) **Research Paper Topics Due**

Week 4:

Jan. 28 (M): *Res Publica* (Polybius selection) **1 page response paper due**

Jan. 30 (W): TBA

Week 5:

Feb 4 (M): Early Roman Expansion

Feb 6 (W): Carthage and Rome (Read Plutarch's Life of Fabius Maximus pp. 53-83) **1 page response paper due**

Week 6:

Feb 11 (M): Scipio and Cato (Read Plutarch's Life of Cato the Elder pp. 119-153) **1 page response paper due**

Feb 13 (W): "Captured Greece captured her savage conqueror"

Week 7:

Feb 18 (M): The Revolution and Reforms of the Gracchi (Read Plutarch's Life of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus pp. 155-193) **2 page response paper due**

Feb 20 (W): TBA

Week 8:

Feb 25 (M): **First Exam**

Feb 27 (W): TBA

Week 9:

Mar 3 (M): TBA

Mar 5 (W): Marius and the New Roman Army

Week 10:

Mar 10 (M): Slavery and Revolts (Read Shaw pp. 1-29; 130-157) **2 page response paper due**

Mar 12 (W): Sulla

Week 11:

NO CLASS

Week 12:

Mar 24 (M): "The Little Butcher"

Mar 26 (W): Cicero and Cataline (Read Cicero Selection)

Week 13:

Mar 31 (M): The First Triumvirate

Apr 2 (W): Caesar in Gaul (Selection from the Gallic Wars) **1 page response paper due**

Week 14:

Apr 7 (M): The Civil War

Apr 9 (W): Caesar's Dream

Week 15:

Apr 14 (M): Ides of March (Read Suetonius' Life of Julius Caesar) **1 page response paper due**

Apr 16 (W): Octavian and Antony (Read Plutarch's Life of Antony pp. 283-292)

Week 16:

Apr. 21 (M): Actium

Apr. 23 (W): *Beau Geste*

Week 17:

Apr. 28 (M): The Principate and early Empire **Research Papers due**

Apr. 30 (W): TBA

Final Exam:

Monday, May 5, 11 am-1 pm