21H.302
THE ANCIENT WORLD: ROME
Spring 2008

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
1) Books for the course (available at 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:


   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.


2) Additional readings on the class web-site:

   Further reading material will be made available on the web-site 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, 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 25
- Revision of Paper #1: March 12
- Paper #2: April 7
- Revision of Paper #2: April 23
- 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

2/6 Introduction

2/7 & 8 NO RECITATIONS

WEEK 2

2/11 Foundation Myths
Reading:

2/13 Monarchy to Republic
Reading:

2/14 & 15 Discussion 1: Livy's Early Rome
Reading:
  - Livy, Preface and 1.1-70 (pp. 3-70).

WEEK 3 ➔ NB Monday class schedule on Tuesday ←

2/19 Social Conflict in the Early Republic
Reading:
  - *The Romans*, pp. 48-57.

2/20 The Roman Constitution I
Reading:
  - *The Romans*, pp. 58-75.
  - Polybius, Book 6 excerpts (available on course website)

2/21 & 22 Discussion 2: Early Roman Society
Reading:
  - Livy 2.1, 2.9-14, 2.23-40, 3.32-34, and 5.32-55 (pp. 71-72, 79-86, 93-113, 173-175, and 316-341).
  - 'The 12 Tables' (available on course website)
WEEK 4
2/25 Rome’s Republican Empire (4th to 2nd c.)
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 75-135.

➔ PAPER #1 DUE ➙

2/27 Consequences of Empire I: the élites
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 136-165.

2/28 & 29 Discussion 3: DEBATE – Roman Imperialism
Reading:
  o Sources for Roman Imperialism, from Champion (ed.),
    *Roman Imperialism*, pp. 67-94.

WEEK 5
3/3 Consequences of Empire II: arming and farming
Reading:
  o Plutarch, *Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus* (pp. 77-115).

3/5 The Constitution II: Popular Politics and Sulla’s Response
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 166-204.

3/6 &7 Discussion 4: Sulla’s Dictatorship
Reading:
  o Plutarch, *Sulla* (pp. 169-215).

WEEK 6
3/10 Pompey and the Special Command
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 204-224.

3/12 Julius Caesar and the Dictatorship
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 225-266.

➔ REVISION of PAPER #1 DUE ➙

3/13 &14 Discussion 5: The Emergence of Monarchy
Reading:
  o Plutarch, *Julius Caesar*, 28-69 (pp. 325-359).
  o Cicero’s *Letters*, selections (available on course website)
WEEK 7
3/17 The Constitution III: Augustus and the Principate
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 267-293.

3/19 The Hearts and Minds of Augustan Rome
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 293-316.

3/20 & 21 Discussion 6: Augustus
DEBATE – Benevolent monarch or tyrant in disguise?
Reading:
  o Suetonius, *Augustus* (pp. 43-97).
  o Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-11 (pp. 1-9).
  o *The Achievements of the Divine Augustus* (available on course website)

3/24-3/28 SPRING VACATION - NO LECTURES

WEEK 8
3/31 The Emperor and the Élites
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 317-337.

4/2 The Emperor and the Plebs
Reading:
  o *The Romans*, pp. 379-392.

4/3 & 4 Discussion 7: Tacitus
Reading:
WEEK 9

4/7  High Politics from the Julio-Claudians to the Flavians
Reading:
   o The Romans, pp. 353-379.

⇒ PAPER #2 DUE⇐

4/9  High Politics from Vespasian to Commodus
Reading:
   o The Romans, pp. 393-406.

4/10 & 11 Discussion 8: Bad Emperors
Reading:
   o Suetonius, Caligula (pp. 136-167).
   o Suetonius, Nero (pp. 195-227).

WEEK 10

4/14  The Roman Army
Reading:
   o The Romans, pp. 301-304; 338-339.
   o As the Romans Did, nos. 291-316 (pp. 243-267).

4/16  Domestic Life in Imperial Rome
Reading:
   o As the Romans Did, nos. 79-98 (pp. 59-78).

4/17 & 18 Discussion 9: Roman Religion and the Imperial Cult
Reading:
   o The Romans, pp. 347-352; 391-392
   o As the Romans Did, nos. 359-443 (pp. 359-406).

WEEK 11

4/21  NO LECTURE – PATRIOTS DAY

4/23  The Mediterranean Economy
Reading:
   o As the Romans Did, nos. 161-197 (pp. 123-162).

⇒ REVISION of PAPER #2 DUE⇐

4/24 & 25 Discussion 10: Roman Slavery
Reading:
   o As the Romans Did, nos. 198-250 (pp. 163-202).
WEEK 12
4/28  Ancient Rome on Film
4/30  From the Severans to the 3rd Century Crisis
     Reading:
          o ‘Crisis’ source selections (available on course website)

5/2  Discussion 11: MFA Roman Gallery (Optional)

WEEK 13
5/5  Recovery: Diocletian & the Tetrarchy
     Reading:
          o *The Romans*, pp. 438-446.

5/7  Constantine and the Impact of Christianity
     Reading:
          o Sources on the conversion of Constantine (available on course website).

⇒ PAPER #3 DUE ⇐

5/8 & 9  Discussion 12: Christian persecution from Nero to Diocletian
     Reading:
          o Tacitus, *Annals* 15.38-44 (pp. 322-326).
          o *As the Romans Did*, nos. 444-453 (pp. 406-417).

WEEK 14
5/12  Fall of Rome and Birth of Byzantium
     Reading:
          o A. Cameron, *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity*, pp. 12-32 (available on course website).

5/14  Ending Roman history