21H.402

THE MAKING OF A ROMAN EMPEROR

T EVE 7-10

Prof. Will Broadhead
BOOKS and RESOURCES

Required books (available at the MIT bookstore):

Online sources:
- Cassius Dio, Roman History, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).
- Plutarch, Life of Anthony, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).

Further reading on library reserve:

Essential reference works in the library:

Online resources:

**JSTOR**
www.jstor.org
The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

**Lacus Curtius**
penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home
Your source for Cassius Dio, Plutarch, and other ancient sources in translation, among other items of interest.

**The Perseus Digital Library**
www.perseus.tufts.edu
A wealth of information relevant to our subject: Ancient texts and translations, extensive photo archives of an impressive range of sites, and plenty of secondary material.

**The Stoa Consortium**
www.stoa.org
‘A Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities’, with links to many projects of interest.
ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION 20%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:
1. Attendance
   Your attendance is required at all of our Tuesday meetings.
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 class a copy of any reading that has been assigned.
3. Active participation
   You are expected to arrive at our weekly meeting having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and actively to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER 20%

For Week 3, you will each write a paper of 4 to 5 pages in response to your reading of Velleius Paterculus, Tacitus, or Cassius Dio.

The question:
Having read the accounts of Velleius, Tacitus, and Dio, you will chose one of the three for your response paper, which will seek to characterize your chosen historian's portrayal of Augustus (i.e. in what light has your author chosen to portray Augustus?) and to begin to account for the nature of the portrayal in question.

The aim of the exercise:
To develop your skills in the close reading and analysis of ancient texts and in the putting together of a coherent argument on the basis of that analysis.

Expectations of the paper:
As it is meant to be a close analysis of your chosen text, your paper should at least a) (obviously) demonstrate close familiarity with the text, b) demonstrate your ability to follow academic conventions in the citation of ancient texts, and c) demonstrate an ability to select the passages from your text that are the most appropriate to supporting the argument of your paper.

The source response paper is due September 27.
GROUP PROJECT: Augustan Rome web-site 20%

In groups of four or five, you will be asked to create an informative web-site about one of the following famous monuments of the Augustan Age: the Forum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the statue of Augustus from Prima Porta, the Altar of Augustan Peace (Ara Pacis), or the Roman Forum.

An example of a good web-site will include, but not be limited to:
- A full description of the monument
- Photos, drawings, plans, reconstructions of the monument
- Any relevant literary, epigraphic, and numismatic evidence
- History of the object itself
- The range of modern interpretations of the monument
- An annotated bibliography
- Links to existing sites of relevance

Each group will also present its web-site to the class (a 10 to 15 minute presentation) in the hope that the web-sites might become a useful resource for the whole class as you each begin to research your final paper topics.

Submission and presentation of web-sites to class: October 25.

Web-site competition votes due by November 1.

RESEARCH PAPER OF 10-15 PAGES 40%

The paper should be a research paper of 10 to 15 pages on a theme of your choice. Your research paper will be expected to demonstrate the skills developed in the first part of the term (i.e. close analysis of ancient textual and monumental evidence) as well as knowledge and understanding of as wide as possible a range of the modern works relevant to your chosen theme (e.g. Galinsky, Zanker, etc.).

To encourage the early research and formulation of ideas, you will each be required to schedule a 20-30 minute meeting with me before November 29 to discuss an outline of your proposed paper.

The research paper will be due at the start of our final meeting: Tues., Dec. 13.
PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1 (Sept 13)  Introduction

Week 2 (Sept 20)  Republic to Principate: the ‘constitutional’ monarchy
Reading:

Week 3 (Sept 27)  Historians on Augustus: Livy, Velleius, Tacitus, Dio
Reading:
  o  Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, Books 52-53 (approx. 65 pp.).

→ Source response paper due.
Week 4 (Oct 4)  Imperial biography: Suetonius

Reading:

Viewing of *I, Claudius* excerpts and *Quo Vadis* excerpts.

Week 5 (Oct 11)  NO MEETING - Columbus Day Holiday

Week 6 (Oct 18)  Poetry and the Princeps: Virgil, Horace, Ovid

Reading:

Week 7 (Oct 25)  Augustan Rome: art and architecture

Reading:
  o Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 105-112.
  o Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome*, pp. 43-62 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
  o Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 228-253 (K1-K63).

➤ Group project web-sites due.

In-class presentations of group web-sites.
**Week 8 (Nov 1)  The Myth of Actium: Octavian and Antony**

**Reading:**
- Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.59-87 (approx. 30 pp.) [available online at Lacus Curtius and on the course website].
- Plutarch, *Antony* 14-87 (pp. 374-430) [available online at Lacus Curtius or on the course website].
- Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, Book 50-51.10 (approx. 37 pp.) [available online at Lacus Curtius].
- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 33-77 [available on library reserve and on the course website].

**Week 9 (Nov 8)  A new Golden Age: Augustan values**

**Reading:**
- Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 80-140.
- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 101-192 [available on library reserve and on the course website].

**Week 10 (Nov 15)  Religion: Myth and the Imperial Cult**

**Reading:**
- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 192-215 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
Week 11 (Nov 29)  The Imperial Family and the Succession

Reading:
- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 215-238 [available on library reserve and on the course website].

Viewing of *I, Claudius* excerpts.

Week 12 (Dec 6)  Rival Augustuses: Mussolini and Syme

Reading:
- Raaflaub and Toher, ‘Editors' preface’, in *Between Republic and Empire*, pp. xi-xxi [available on library reserve and on the course website].
- NB: Syme to be read with my key to the many passages of Latin in his text.

Week 13 (Dec 13)  Conclusion: Whose emperor?

Reading:

Research paper due