

History 331 Syllabus, Roman Imperial History 2002 [![[Image map  
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## History 331, The Roman and Early Byzantine Empire

Spring 2002

[Dept. of History \(http://www.richmond.edu/~history/\)](http://www.richmond.edu/~history/)

[University of Richmond \(http://www.richmond.edu/\)](http://www.richmond.edu/)

[Walt Stevenson \(http://www.richmond.edu/~wstevens/\)](http://www.richmond.edu/~wstevens/)

NC 211 Office Hours: TR 1-2 (or by [appt. \(mailto:wstevens@richmond.edu\)](mailto:wstevens@richmond.edu))

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**Course Description** : Rome's "imperial" period traditionally begins with the "princeps" Augustus consolidating an empire stretching from Spain to Persia, Ethiopia to Russia, under a centralized bureaucracy. The period ends with Rome's Islamic successor driving two tiny survivors, Byzantium and Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire, back under cover. This course will outline the evolving imperial strategies and their social effects. It will also attempt to explain the vast shift from Augustus' laissez-faire conglomeration of peoples and kingdoms to Diocletian's totalitarian state, from the great pax romana (Roman peace) to the endless battles with wave after wave of "barbarians," from syncretic polytheism to the theocracy of Theodosius and his Muslim followers, in short, from antiquity to the "middle age."

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**Requirements** : The following will be required of all students taking the course:

- attend classes with a look of intense intellectual curiosity
- complete all the assigned reading carefully taking notes and thinking about the inherent issues
- read Wells/Cameron and take a [test \(his331testfacts\\_02.html\)](#) on the basic background
- write out a developed problem with the reading for the day (for discussion days)
- contribute thoughtfully to class discussion
- write a detailed and persuasive essay for the midterm and final
- complete one of the following projects (original work is required here):
  - 10 page research paper.
  - 10 page narrative from an ancient perspective.
  - 5 page critical review of Gore Vidal's **Julian**.
  - 5 page critical review of a scholarly book (instructor's approval required).

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**Grading** :

- Test: 10%

- Class Participation: 20%
- Midterm: 20%
- Project: 25%
- Final: 25%

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### Schedule of Assignments :

*(N.B. These texts can only be accessed from UR's campus network.)*

- 1. (January 7) Introduction to the Course.
- 2. (January 9) Review of Mediterranean Geography [read Wells chapters 3, 5, 7]
- 3. (January 11) Review of Major Political and Military Leaders [read Wells chapters 9 and 11]
- 4. January 14) Review of the Period's Chronology [read Cameron LRE chapters 3 and 4]
- 5. (January 16) Lecture on Mediterranean before Augustus [read Cameron LRE chapter 6 and 7]
- 6. (January 18) [Test \(his331testfacts\\_02.html\)](#) on Background Information
- 7. (January 21) [What is History? \(history331texts/carr.html\)](#)
- 8. January 23) [Suetonius' Life of Augustus \(history331texts/suetaug.html\)](#)
- 9. (January 25) [Res Gestae \(history331texts/resgestae.html\)](#) and the Augustan Revolution
- 10. (January 28) Lecture: the Principate
- 11. January 30) Succession from Augustus to Tiberius: [Tacitus \(history331texts/augtotib.html\)](#)
- 12. (February 1) [The Annona and the Lower Classes \(history331texts/annona.html\)](#)
- 13. (February 4) [Caligula: Suetonius \(history331texts/caligula.html\)](#)
- 14. (February 6) [Nero \(history331texts/tacitus3.html\)](#) and [Decadence \(history331texts/satyricon.html\)](#)
- 15. (February 8) The Roman Empire from the Outside: [Josephus \(history331texts/josephus.html\)](#)
- 16. (February 11) Roman [Slavery \(history331texts/slavery.html\)](#):
- 17. (February 13) [Barbarians: Tacitus \(history331texts/barbarians.html\)](#)
- 18. (February 15) [Roman Farming \(history331texts/farming.html\)](#)
- 19. (February 18) Lecture: Greco–Roman Medicine: Galen
- 20. (February 20) Domitian and the Dominate: [Suetonius \(history331texts/dom.html\)](#)
- 21. (February 22) Lecture: [Roman Architecture and Engineering \(history331texts/enginlect.html\)](#)

- 22. (February 25) [Christianity \(history331texts/christian.html\)](#) from Various Perspectives ([Pliny \(history331texts/pliny.html\)](#))
- 23. (February 27) Lecture: Politics and Sexuality in the Imperial Court
- 24. (March 1) [Midterm \(history331texts/midterm.html\)](#)
- 25. (March 11) Lecture: Roman Games
- 26. (March 13) Septimius [Severus \(history331texts/severus.html\)](#): Historia Augusta
- 27. (March 15) Severan Women: [Cassius Dio \(history331texts/s\\_women.html\)](#)
- 28. (March 18) Lecture: [Mystery Religions \(history331texts/mysteryreligions.html\)](#) (optional: review [Third Century Emperors List \(history331texts/3centemps.html\)](#))
- 29. (March 20) Diocletian: [Barnes \(history331texts/barnes.html\)](#) and [Eusebius \(history331texts/eusebius.html\)](#)
- 30. (March 22) Constantine: [Eusebius \(history331texts/euseb.html\)](#)
- 31. (March 25) Julian on Himself: [Misopogon \(history331texts/julian.html\)](#)
- 32. (March 27) Who Killed Julian: [various readings \(history331texts/whodoni.html\)](#)
- 33. (March 29) [What is Roman Civil War? \(history331texts/civilwar.html\)](#)
- 34. (April 1) Lecture: the Christian State [ **PROJECT DUE** ]
- 35. (April 3) Late Roman Warfare: [Vegetius \(history331texts/Vegetius.html\)](#)
- 36. (April 5) The Fall of Rome: [City of God \(history331texts/cgod.html\)](#)
- 37. (April 8) Lecture: Theodoric and German Kings
- 38. (April 10) [Justinian's Warrior Belisarius \(history331texts/procop1.html\)](#)
- 39. (April 12) Justinian's Secret Life: [Secret History \(history331texts/procopius.html\)](#) (see also [Ravenna Mosaics \(history331texts/justinian\\_mosaics/sanvitale.html\)](#))
- 40. (April 15) Lecture: Heraclius and the Big Fall
- 41. (April 17) Lecture: Holy Roman Empire and Beyond
- April 22, 9 AM: [FINAL EXAM \(history331texts/finalquestions02.html\)](#)

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#### Texts :

- Colin Wells, **The Roman Empire**.
- Averil Cameron, **The Later Roman Empire, AD 284–430**.
- Averil Cameron, **The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity, AD 395–600**.
- Chris Scarre, **Penguin Historical Atlas of Rome**.
- Gore Vidal, **Julian** (optional).
- All other readings are as linked here on this syllabus.

N.B. The instructor does not allow make up tests under any circumstances, nor does he accept late work.

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