

HST 302: History of Rome  
Instructor: Dr. David Leinweber  
Office Hours: M,W,F, 2-4:00  
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**I. Course Objectives:** Course Objectives are as follows:

- A. To deepen our knowledge of the central events, trends, and issues which constitute the history of the Roman world, from its origins in Italic culture to the fall of the Roman Empire.
- B. To gain an appreciation of the western civilization's rich heritage deriving from Roman Civilization.
- C. To sharpen our critical writing and thinking skills.

**II. Texts:**

For your reading pleasure, the following excellent texts have been assigned. All are from the Penguin Classics Library. We will read selected biographies from Plutarch and Suetonius, as indicated on the calendar portion of this syllabus.

Apuleius, *The Golden Ass (Metamorphoses)*  
Gibbon, Edward, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*  
Livy, *The Early History of Rome*  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
Plutarch, *Makers of Rome*  
Plutarch, *The Fall of the Roman Republic*  
Suetonius, *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*  
Vergil, *The Aeneid*

In addition to these required texts, the instructor will likely distribute additional excerpted passages, articles, etc., as the course progresses.

**III. Grading:** Three grading units, equal in value, will be averaged to compute the final grade. The three grades will be composed of the following:

- A. The average grade of four shorter short papers. Papers will be ten-pitch font, single-spaced, front and back-sided one-page papers. They will be assigned by the professor based on readings done by the course; they will call upon students to relate various readings to the historical context treated in classroom discussions and presentations.
- B. The grade which a student receives on a major fifteen page research paper. Students will complete this paper. A rough draft will be completed early, and submitted to the professor in a required office appointment to discuss the paper.

C. Successful (i.e. 3.0 or better) completion of a take-home final exam. Failure to pass the take-home will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, accordingly.

D. Earnest, quality participation in the LearnLink Conference, when required.

E. Students will work with selected peers in preparing a major panel presentation on larger topic, of which their own research paper will be a sub-topic. This presentation must be done well. Failure to provide a thoroughly and well-prepared presentation will result in a penalty lowering of the student's grade, at the discretion of the instructor.

#### **IV. Various Course Policies:**

A. Attendance is strongly encouraged, records, and a valuable piece of information to be considered at grading time. Moreover, four absences deemed unexcused by the instructor will result in a lowering of the student's grade, at the instructor's discretion.

B. The Oxford College Honor Code pertains to this course, of course. Students are expected to honor fully the Code, both in letter and spirit.

C. The course will combine lectures with some discussion of the common readings. The instructor reserves the right to reduce a student's final score by a full 10% if the student has been, in the instructor's judgement, habitually inattentive or unprepared for thoughtful participation in the group. The instructor really hopes he does not have to impose this penalty on any students so make a good faith effort to do the work. Then we can all enjoy the great material covered in this course.

D. The instructor reserves the right to amend procedures, schedules, and course format, described in the syllabus, as each class evolves in its particular way. .

#### **V. Course Calendar:**

A. A calendar projecting the scheduling of readings and due-dates of the course is attached to this syllabus.