

Classics 202 Spring 2010

THE ROMANS

Henry Bayerle

Seney Hall 310, MWF 12:50PM - 1:40PM

Office Hours: Language Hall 106A, MWF 2PM – 3PM

“The Romans” is survey of ancient Rome from its origins in legend and myth to late antiquity, as seen through its principal literary texts in their historical, social, and cultural context. The time period covered is 753 BCE to the 12th century CE. Plastic art, material culture, and historical sources will be examined, but the primary focus of the course will be literature. Authors will include Livy, Sallust, Cicero, Julius Caesar, Suetonius, Catullus, Vergil, Horace, Propertius, Tibullus, Ovid, Seneca, Pliny, Plutarch, and Perpetua.

This is an area VB course and a sophomore writing course. Students will write one short paper (5 – 6 pages), one long paper (10 – 12 pages), and a few one-page response papers. There will be a midterm and a final exam, which will involve identifying names and passages from the reading and answering essay questions.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: THE BEGINNINGS OF LATIN AND THE ROMAN PEOPLE

Jan. 13 – 15

Readings: Livy, *Histories* selections

WEEK 2: CRISES OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC: THE EMPIRE AND INTERNAL RIVALRIES

Jan. 20 – 22

Readings: *Penguin Historical Atlas of the Ancient Rome* pp. 12 – 35

Suetonius, *Life of Julius Caesar*

WEEK 3: CRISES OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC: RESISTANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

Jan. 25 – 29

Readings: Julius Caesar, *Civil Wars* selections

Sallust, *Catiline* selections

Suetonius, *Life of Augustus*

WEEK 4: EARLY EMPIRE: A NEW GOLDEN AGE?

Feb. 1 – 5

Readings: Augustus, *Res Gestae*

Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* selections

Tacitus, *Annals* selections

Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol.1, Chapter 3

WEEK 5: LITERATURE OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC: TRADITIONAL ROME VS. GREEK CULTURE
Feb. 8 – 12

Readings: Cicero, *Pro Archia*

Selections from the lyric poetry of Sappho, Archilochus, Callimachus, and Catullus

Vergil, *Eclogues*; Horace, *Odes and Epodes* selections

WEEK 6: EPIC AND EMPIRE

Feb. 15 – 19

Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 1 – 6

WEEK 7: PYRRHIC VICTORY: PERSONAL LIFE AND THE ROMAN HERO

Feb. 22 – 26

Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 7 – 12

WEEK 8: MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR

March 1 – 5

Readings: Selections from the elegies of Propertius and Tibullus

Ovid, *Amores* selections

Ovid, *Art of Love* Book 1

WEEK 9: CHANGE AND TRADITION: 'TIS LIKE A CAMEL, INDEED

March 15 – 19

Readings: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1 – 7

WEEK 10: ART AND RESISTANCE

March 22 – 26

Readings: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 8 – 15

WEEK 11: GLADIATORS: THE POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, AND BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT

March 29 – April 2

Readings: Suetonius, *Lives of Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero*

WEEK 12: CHRISTIANITY AND ROME

April 5 – 9

Readings: *The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas*

WEEK 13: CLASSICAL CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES: SURVIVAL AND TRANSFORMATION

April 12 - 16

Readings: Augustine, *Confessions*, selections

WEEK 14: MEDIEVAL EXEGESIS AND EPIDEICTIC RHETORIC

April 19 – 23

Readings: Bernardus Silvestris, *Commentary on the First Six Books of the Aeneid*

WEEK 15: NAMING THE CANON

April 26

Reading: T. S. Eliot, "What is a Classic?"

Italo Calvino, "Why Read the Classics?"

Important dates

Paper 1 due: Feb. 17
Midterm Exam: March 5
Paper 2 due: April 19

Your Tasks

1. Reading all text assignments before class. By “reading” I mean not only reading all of the words on the pages but also underlining important passages, making marginal notes in the texts themselves, and/or taking notes on index cards or in a notebook. Think of this as “active reading.” By reviewing your notes before class you can more effectively participate in class discussion.
2. Participating actively in class discussions (you can do this only if you have read actively beforehand).
3. Preparing two short presentations, based either on the weekly readings or a supplemental article.
4. Writing one short paper (5 – 6 pages) and one long paper (10 – 12 pages).
5. Taking a midterm and a final exam. These exams will involve identifying names and passages from your reading and answering essay questions.

Attendance policy

I expect you to attend every class. More than three unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one percentage point for every class you miss.

Grading Policy

Participation in Class Discussions	25%
Short Paper	10%
Long Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	30%

Texts

Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , trans. Rolfe Humphries	ISBN: 0253200016
Suetonius, <i>Lives of the Caesars</i> , trans. Catharine Edwards	ISBN: 0192832719
Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , trans. Allen Mandelbaum	ISBN: 0553210416