



HISTORY 343: ANCIENT ROME

Missouri State University, Spring 2022
MWF 12:20 PM-01:10 PM STRO 400

Professor: Dr. Bryan Brinkman
Email: bbrinkman@missouristate.edu

Office: Strong Hall 444
Office Hours: MWF 1:15-2:15 pm
Held concurrently in-person and online.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the culture and history of ancient Rome, and its empire, from the city's origins to the "fall" in the West. (ca. 753 BCE - 476 CE). We will be working with a variety of primary source materials: texts, inscriptions, coins, archaeological remains, etc. Through examination of these materials, we will consider the development of key themes in history, intellectual culture, and socio-political practices in the Roman world. In addition to a broad outline of the historical events in Rome's past, we will explore topics such as: religion, death, slavery, the army, and gender and sexuality. We will particularly investigate the rich diversity of perspectives, experiences, and voices of people living in Rome and the Roman empire.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Course-Specific Student Learning Goals

- I. This course will provide students with an overview of Ancient Rome from its earliest foundations until the end of the Empire in the West.
- II. By the end of this course, students will be able to synthesize information drawn from primary and secondary sources in order to reconstruct the major historical moments and trends in Roman history.

III. In this course we will also be focusing on the process of “doing history,” through a series of units focusing on the interpretation and use of four major categories of evidence from Ancient Rome: Art and Archaeology, Literature and Poetry, Documents (Inscriptions and Papyri), and coins.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION

Readings

Required Boatwright, Mary Taliaferro, Richard J. A. Talbert, and Daniel J. Gargola. 2004. *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. Oxford University Press

Required Shelton, Jo-Ann. 1998. *As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History*. New York: Oxford University Press

Additional readings will be made available online via Blackboard/ Perusall.

Evaluation

Participation (in-class and on Perusall)	150 points possible
Quizzes	200 points possible
Midterm Project	150 points possible
Historical Methods <i>Practica</i>	200 points possible
Final Paper Project	300 points possible
Total	1000 points possible

Participation & Attendance Grade (150 points possible):

- Not only should you attend each class, but you should be prepared. This means having the readings done ahead of time, having the sources accessible to you in class, being on time, etc.
- Note, simply showing up will entitle you to zero participation points.
- The course will also use the online tool **Perusall**. Perusall allows the class to read and annotate readings that will be discussed in class. You are required to participate in this online forum as well as in-person discussion.

Quizzes (200 points total)

- There will be 4 quizzes. These are completed online (Blackboard). These quizzes, in addition to encouraging class preparedness and attendance, are meant to assess basic comprehension of major people, places, events, and things.

Midterm Graffiti Project (150 points)

- For your midterm project, you will select six graffiti from Pompeii/Herculaneum. For each graffito, you will “reconstruct” an imagined inscriber and address who they were and what was in their mind that prompted them to make the graffito. Your “reconstructions” must be based on historical information and include citations.

Historical Methods *Practica* (200 points total)

- There will be four sections during the semester where you will be introduced to the methods used in the study of sources from Ancient Rome. These will include: Art and Archaeology, Literature and Poetry, Documents (Inscriptions and Papyri), and coins. After each methods lesson you will write a ca. one page study on specific pieces chosen (from a pre-select group) by you. You will work around a general theme of your choice selected from the following broad categories: Roman warfare, Roman business and industry, Roman religion, Romans and “foreigners,” Roman women, and the Roman Emperor.

Final Paper Project (300 points possible)

- Students will be required to write a research paper, due near the end of the class. This essay should make a historical argument and use appropriate primary and secondary sources (more on this will be discussed during the term).

Grading

90-93 = A-	94-100 = A	
80-83 = B-	84-86 = B	87-89 = B+
70-73 = C-	74-76 = C	77-79 = C+
	60-66 = D	67-69 = D+
	0-59 = F	

All current University policies are available through the link “University Policies” on Blackboard. This course, its students, and instructor are subject to the policies stated there (<https://www.missouristate.edu/provost/bbsyllabus.htm>)

Course Plan-B in the Event Classes Move Remote/Online due to COVID-19

If the university requires us to move our course to a virtual setting, our plan is outlined here. Some minor changes may be made based on fluctuating university policies and/or other extraordinary circumstances. Please note that every course will have its own plan and so these procedures are not necessarily the same as your other courses (you will need to check your other syllabus/professors for your other classes).

How will class be taught? Will class be held at the same time as our seated class was scheduled (what is known as “remote” or “synchronous” learning) or will the class move entirely online (what is called “asynchronous”)?

Both. For the most part, class will be moved online, and be taught asynchronously. This means that most weeks you will have readings, assignments, and discussion boards, but you will not necessarily need to be at a computer for “live” instruction twice a week. As long as the assignments are completed by the date due each week, you will largely be able to determine when, during the week, you chose to work. You will be scheduled to meet with me on those days marked “Zoom Consolation” on the syllabus.

What additional technology will I need if seated classes are transitioned?

None. That is, no more than is required for your seated, in-person class. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a higher than usual technology requirement for all students even in seated classes to ensure access to class materials if students or the professor is sick. We will be using an e-textbook and all class assignments will use Blackboard. If we move online, all class discussion will also use Blackboard. See the technology statement in the syllabus for the full list of technology related requirements, help with technology, and related resources. Professor office hours and “live” instruction will take place via Zoom. You will only need to sign up for a free **Zoom** account.

What about attendance or participation grades?

Students will be expected to participate fully in our online learning community, just as you are expected to do in our seated class, if we transition online.

How will I know if things on the syllabus change?

Blackboard and email. In our normal seated class, I will regularly post Announcements via Blackboard, that also get emailed out to students. I will continue using this method of communication if the class transitions. You are expected to check Blackboard and university email daily (and to read ALL communication CAREFULLY). I cannot stress this enough. I will try to not over burden your inboxes, which may cause some emails to be long and full of important information. Read all of them promptly and thoroughly. I promise to similarly read your emails promptly as they come in.

What about office hours?

Office hours will continue to be conducted remotely, also via Zoom. The times of availability will remain the same.

PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Spring 2022

Our class schedule may change if we need to spend longer on certain topics, and/or if there are university cancelled classes for any reason. I reserve the right to update the syllabus as necessary. I will announce major changes via Blackboard announcements.

- **Content**
- **Historical Practicum**
- **These readings require Perusall annotation**

Week (Mon-Fri)	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: Jan 18-21	Introduction to Course Sources in Roman History	“Reconstructing the Past” Sources	
2: Jan 24-28	Rome’s Origins: Myth and History Art History and Archaeology	Boatwright, Chapter 1 Livy, Book 1.1-17	
3: Jan 31-Feb 4	The “Regal Period” (753-509 BCE) Roman Laws and the Early Republic (509-450 BCE)	Boatwright, Chapter 2 Livy, Book 1.18-60 The Twelve Tables	Historical Practicum #1 (Art and Archaeology) Due Friday 2/4
4: Feb 7-11	Roman Republic: Political Structure The “Conflict of the Orders” (450-366 BCE)	Boatwright, Chapter 3 ARD #2-15 Polybius, 11-18	Quiz #1: Due Monday 2/7
5: Feb 14-18	Early Roman Expansion The Punic Wars	Boatwright, Chapter 4 ARD #402-411 Polybius, Book 6	
6: Feb 23-25 (No Class Monday)	Roman Slavery Roman Literature and Poetry	ARD #198-226 Plautus, <i>Pseudolus</i> (watch: in Latin!) Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> (pp. 5-65)	

7: Feb 28-March 4	Internal Changes as a Consequence of Empire	Boatwright, Chapter 5 <i>Plutarch, Cato the Elder</i> <i>Senate Decree on the Bacchanalia</i>	Historical Practicum #2 (Roman Literature and Poetry) Due Friday 3/4
8: March 7-11	Italy Threatened	Boatwright, Chapter 6 and 7 <i>Cicero, Oration against Catiline</i>	Quiz #2: Due Monday 3/7 Midterm Project Due Friday 3/11
9: March 14-20 No Classes (the Ides of March...also, Spring Break)			
10: March 21-25	The Last Generation of the Roman Republic	Boatwright, Chapter 8 <i>Caesar, Selections</i> <i>Cicero, Letter XIV</i>	
11: March 28-Apr 1	Augustus and Augustan Culture <i>Documents: Inscriptions and Papyri</i>	Boatwright, Chapter 9 <i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i>	
12: Apr 4-8	The Creation of the Principate	Boatwright, Chapter 10 ARD #325-347 <i>Tacitus, Annals 1.1-15; 13.1-58</i>	Quiz #3: Due Monday 4/7 Historical Practicum #3 (Documents: Inscriptions and Papyri) Due Friday 4/8
13: Apr 11-13 (April 14-17 Spring Holiday: No Classes)	<i>Pax Romana</i> Roman Spectacle: The World of the Arena	Boatwright, Chapter 11 ARD # 377-401	
14: Apr 18-22	Crisis, Recovery, and the Late Roman Empire <i>Numismatics: Coins</i>	Boatwright, Chapter 12 <i>Pliny, "Letter to Trajan"</i>	
15: Apr 25-29	Christian Rome and Late Antiquity	Boatwright, Chapter 13	Historical Practicum #4 (Numismatics: Coins) Due Friday 4/29

16: May 2-6	The "Fall" of the Roman Empire and Eternal Rome		Quiz #4: Due Monday 5/2
17: May 9-11 (May 12: Last Day of Classes)	Review		Final Essay Due May 11