

## ROMAN HISTORY 212

Spring Semester 2012    Urban    12:30-1:45 TT    Wallace Hall 317

This course is designed for the average junior level student, regardless of background or major—the designation HIST or CLAS is only for the convenience of the registrar in counting a student's major courses. The principles taught in Roman history are widely applicable to an understanding of human conduct throughout the centuries and in the present day. In a very real sense Roman ideas and institutions have never died; they live in our society today. The instructor will attempt to point out this continuity in both the lectures and the numerous class discussions.

There will be no textbook. (There are textbooks in the Hewes Library, if you want to read one.) Instead of following a text, the class will read the following Roman and Greek authors in translation:

Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic* (Penguin ISBN 9780140449341; copyright 2006, \$16.00)

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* (Penguin ISBN 9780140449211; copyright 2006; \$15.00)

Livy, *Early History of Rome* (Penguin ISBN 0-14-044104-2; copyright 2002; \$16.00)

Professor Urban's office is in the basement of Wallace Hall.

His office hours are extensive.

You can reach him at 2388. E-Mail: Urban

CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY

### EXAMS and PAPERS

There will be a mid-term exam and a final. Exams have three parts: map, identification, and essay. These test different skills that are necessary for a mastery of Roman history. A *freehand* map of the Mediterranean basin demonstrates knowledge of the relationship of regions. Identification questions are designed to indicate depth of knowledge. Essay questions illustrate the ability to generalize and make connections. Essay questions will be distributed ahead of time, and will be assigned randomly, you that you only write on one.

There will be two book reports that reflect the faculty expectation that writing skills be taught throughout the curriculum, and that students make oral reports.

There are also two **video** assignments: marked \*. The one page, single-spaced report has to be turned in via email by Saturday evening of the week of the assignment. Late returns are given partial credit.

There is one paper on television series (either *I, Claudius* or *Rome*).

There are short reports on speakers in the archeology series and other special events (not all are announced before the syllabus is printed). Summarize the ideas rather than whether you like or dislike the talk. All reports will be graded on style and grammar as well as accuracy and depth of analysis. See the videos on your own in Hewes Library.

Some class sessions will be given to group discussion of the assigned readings. Everyone is expected to come to class with passages in the books, with at least one question prepared, and to participate in discussions. Attendance is expected.

*Send Papers and Reports to instructor on e-mail.* Papers later than a week after the syllabus date will be accepted until the final week of classes, but the grade will be reduced. This does not apply, of course, in the case of genuine, documented problems such as severe illness or family emergencies.

Students interested in study in Italy should consider the ACM program in Florence and Florence-London, offered each fall and spring. The emphasis of those programs in Renaissance art, but there is ample opportunity to visit Roman and Etruscan sites, to tour Rome and other ancient cities, and to see the finest examples of ancient art. Professor Urban was director of the Florence program in 1974-75; Professor Sienkiewicz was director some years ago.

## Map

A *freehand* map of the Empire—*accurate*, not amoeba-shaped. Alums often report that this was one of their best experiences. It seemed impossible at first, but proved very useful after graduation.

Locate the following rivers: Danube, Tiber, Po, Rhine, Nile. Locate the following cities: Rome, Naples, Carthage, Syracuse, Athens, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Milan, Ravenna, Constantinople. Locate the following islands: Sicily, Britain.

See <http://www.dalton.org/groups/rome/RMAPS.html>

For a good guided tour of Rome: <http://www.unicaen.fr/rome/anglais/geographique/planbis.html>

## Archeological Institute of America

Prof. Sienkewicz organizes a good series of speakers every year. Students will be expected to attend the appropriate presentations and make a report. If some complication prevents attendance, there will be some make-up assignment.

### Readings in Livy

33-63 Origins of the Roman People

69-72, 81-82 origins of ceremonies, classes

72-80 Tarquin

84-88 Tullia

97-101 Lucretia

114-122 Lars Porsena

183, 192-204 Patricians versus Plebians

213-216, 285-287 Cincinnatus

219-225 the Decemvirs

231-248 Virginia

341-366 War with Veii

378-402 Gauls sack Rome

## Library Resources

Over the past century the classics department has assembled a good collection of materials for Roman history. There is no required text, but there are some good texts in the DG section.

**TWO BOOK REPORTS:** *Do not read your paper. Oral and written communications are different.*

1) **On some book connected with Roman history, society or culture.** This should be two to four pages long, typed, no typos. It should concentrate on insights from the authors as to the significance of the information discussed. You must “walk the shelves” in the history [DG] and the classics sections [PA]—the principle is this: **THE BOOK YOU REALLY WANT IS NEXT TO THE ONE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.** *And do not pick the shortest one you can find!* Authors’ efforts to create interesting titles assure that the book you really want is not always the one in the computer catalog. You might find the book you want in art or music or business. A creative computer search might turn up some interesting titles. No duplicate papers from other classes, please. **DO NOT READ your oral report. YOU MAY USE NOTES.** Think CATA 101.

2) **On a work of fiction.** Most of these are available in the Hewes Library, but the mysteries are cheap enough to buy. Also new mysteries are coming onto the market: <http://histmvst.org/> gives an up-to-date list. Check interesting titles on Amazon.com.

**Mystery Novels:** There are three writers who have set plots in Rome. You meet the great figures, but not in their usual political setting. Steven Saylor’s Gordianus the Finder is married to an Egyptian, his father is an auctioneer, his brother has disappeared, presumably dead (but with very real debts); he bumps into Cicero fairly often: *Roman Blood, The Arms of Nemesis, Catalina's Riddle, The Venus Throw, A Murder on the Appian Way* and *House of the Vestals*. A bit of blood and sex. The latest: *the Triumph of Caesar*.

Lindsay Davis’ informer is Marcus Didius Falco, a very flawed fellow just past his youth, but a high-born divorcee sees something in him, even if her father does not; he works for Vespasian and sons: *Silver Pigs, Shadows in Bronze, Venus in Copper, The Iron Hand of Mars, Last Act in Palmyra* and *Time to Depart*. This list has been added to—the publishers have found that these books give a new and popular twist to

the term “classic mystery.”

John Maddox Roberts, a prolific writer, has several excellent mysteries in the SPQR series: *SPQR* (New York: Avon, 1991), *SPQR II: The Cataline Conspiracy*, *SPQR: The Sacrilege*, *SPQR: The Temple of the Muses*, *The King’s Gambit*, *Nobody Loves a Centurion*. These are perhaps the very best for Roman culture, if you can find them.

Also *The Lock* by Benita Kane Jaro (Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.) ISBN: -0-86516-535-1; *The Key* by Benita Kane Jaro (same) ISBN:0-86516-534-3; *The Door in the Wall* by Benita Kane Jaro (same) ISBN:0-86516-533-5.

*A Pattern of Blood* by Rosemary Rowe.

**Historical Novels:** Colleen McCullough, famous for *The Thorn Birds*, turned back to her favorite era—the last century of Republican Rome. Her four volumes—*The First Man in Rome*, *The Grass Crown*, *Fortune’s Favorites*, *Caesar’s Women*—are traditional historical novels; they stick to the facts, insert plausible dialogue and innovative but possible personal relationships, and relate a crackling good story. But be warned. These weigh in at 700 pages apiece, but they will be appropriately weighed for extra credit.

For lots of unnecessary violence:

David Anthony Durham, *Pride of Carthage: A novel of Hannibal*

Bernard Cornwell, *The Warlord Chronicles*

**PAPER from DVDs on Roman History:** write on one. 2-4 pages long. The first four episodes.

a) *I, Claudius*. (2008) PR6013.R35 I23 2008 Mature viewers only.

b) Rome. First season (2006) PN1992.77 .R664 2006

## CLASS SCHEDULE

January 24 Introduction (Etruscans, Greeks, Carthage)

26 The Early Republic (Livy).

31 Slide lecture on Etruscan culture. For Etruscan language, see <http://geocities.com/etrusci/>

Feb 2 More Livy. **Map quiz.**

7 More Livy.

9 Expansion south and the First Punic War (Livy)

14 The Second Punic War and Roman Expansion into Greece and Asia Minor

16 Hellenistic Society, the Gracchi, the Social War

21 **1<sup>st</sup> book report due (history, culture, society).** Formal oral reports by each student. 5 minutes or so.

DO NOT READ your report. Talk about it.

23 reports continued **paper due on Friday.**

28 Discussion of Marius in Plutarch’s *Lives*

**video: Caesar’s Nightmare \***

March 1 Discussion of Sulla in *Plutarch’s Lives*

5 **FOX Lecture:** Tuna in Ancient Greece. Wells Theater 7:30\* (will be on the exam)

6 Review

8 **EXAM**

## SPRING BREAK 10-18

20 Discussion of Pompey and Crassus in Plutarch’s *Lives*

22 Caesar’s rise to power: Compare Caesar in Suetonius and Plutarch

27 Caesar in Gaul, the Civil War

**video: Julius Caesar and the Battle of Alesia\***

29 Augustus in Suetonius Rome at its Height (slides)

April 3 Discussion of Tiberius in Suetonius  
5 Cleaning Roman coins

**EASTER BREAK April 6-9**

10 Caligula and Claudius in Suetonius

**Archeological Lecture 7:30.**

12 Discussion of Nero in Suetonius **book report due (mystery).**

17 Scots Day. No Class

19. Suetonius the last four emperors

24 Oral book reports on novels—in class

26

May 1 The Pax Romana, the Long Third Century; Breakdown and Reorganization of the Roman state in the third and fourth centuries

3 Frontier defense (slides) Religious Controversies and the Triumph of Christianity

**Written report on Roman TV series due**

8 The so-called Fall of the Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire (slides)

**Friday May 11 8 AM FINAL EXAM**

**EXTRA CREDIT** Monday, January 30, 2012

**“Tracking Roman Florentia through the Streets of Modern Florence”**

**Thomas J. Sienkewicz**, Minnie Billings Capron Professor of Classics at Monmouth College  
**7:30pm in the Round Room, Ford Center for the Fine Arts, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois**

Most visitors to modern Florence are interested in the Renaissance city, but, for Classicists another, Roman, city is of equal interest. In this lecture the remains of the Roman city will be traced on the buildings and in the streets of the modern city. Signs of city walls, baths, temples, an amphitheatre and a theatre will be discussed. Florentia will also be compared to the hilltop Etruscan city of Faesulae (modern Fiesole), which lies above modern Florence.

**REQUIRED** Tuesday, April 10, 2012

**“Music, Healing and Sacred Space in Classical Greece: A New Interpretation of the Thymele of Epidauros”**

**Peter Schultz**, Olin J. Storvick Chair of Classical Studies at Concordia College, in Morehead, Minnesota

**7:30 P.M. in the Morgan Room of Poling Hall,**

**FOX LECTURE Required Monday March 5, 2012 Wells Theater**

**“Tuna in Ancient Greece and Modern Tuna Population Decline”**

Daniel B. Levine, University of Arkansas