

HIST 130 (MEB)

Mad Emperors and Bad Ones

Fall Semester 2012 ½ credit First 8 Weeks. WH 204 Urban 8 AM MWF

The 4-4 program has one major trade-off: students take one course less per semester, but do the work appropriate for four semester hours (or, in the case of ½ credit courses, two semester hours). All classes will be more intense; this one will cover less ground than previous Roman History courses, but plow it more thoroughly.

In addition, the new program for the history department expects all 100 level courses to use a documents-based approach. There are three major goals that each class will try to reach: Each student should be able to:

- A. Define and locate primary sources (find in the assigned readings)
- B. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of different types of primary sources (written and oral reports)
- C. Use primary sources to produce a historical narrative (such is the language difficulty that in this class the assignment will be to see how historians use primary sources in films, videos and novels).

This course being based on original sources, there will be no textbook. (There are textbooks in the Hewes Library, if you want to read one.) Instead, we will concentrate on original sources. Classic sources, if you will. The class will read parts of the following Roman histories in translation:

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* (penguin) ISBN 9780140455168;

Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome* (Penguin Classic) ISBN 9780140440607

Professor Urban's office is in the basement of Wallace Hall. His office hours are 9-11, 12 MWF, 9:30-10:30 TT.

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

CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY

Five notes: **1) go to the bathroom before class starts, 2) no open computers, 3) No earbuds, 4) something to write on [and do take notes], 5) bring the appropriate books and printed materials to class.**

The 4-4 program assumes that each student in this class will spend 10-14 hours each week, some in the class, the rest reading and writing. Estimated breakdown of these hours:

H = hours in class

R = time needed for assigned readings

V = time needed to watch video and write report

P = time needed for research papers and book reviews

T = time needed for assigned talks

L = lab



EXAMS and PAPERS

There will be only a final exam; and perhaps some short reports on speakers in the archeology series.

The exam will 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 will write on the one assigned.

Send Papers and Reports to instructor on e-mail. Papers more than a week after the syllabus date will be accepted, but the grade will be reduced.

Each student should have a **three-ring binder** for collecting handouts and saving corrected papers.

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 is in Renaissance art, but there is ample opportunity to visit Roman 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 not long ago.

Archeological Institute of America

Prof. Sienkiewicz 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.

Map

A *freehand* map of the Empire—accurate, not amoeba-shaped. Locate the following rivers: Danube, Tiber, Po, Rhine, Nile. Locate the following cities: Rome, Naples, Carthage, Syracuse, Athens, Alexandria, Jerusalem. Locate the following islands: Sicily, Britain.



Library Resources

Over the past century the classics department has assembled a good collection of materials for Roman history. There is no required text in 100 level history classes, but there are good texts in the DG section.

ONE BOOK REVIEW (*sixth week of class*) on a murder mystery set in Rome which you will compare to what you have read in the original sources, following a format to be distributed separately. Most of these books are available in the Hewes Library, but the mysteries are cheap enough to buy. *Mystery Novels*: There are two mystery writers who have set their plots in early imperial Rome. 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* and more. This list has been added to—the publishers have found that classic mysteries give a new and popular twist to the term “classic mystery.” Robert Harris has published *Pompeii* and *Imperium*.

MOVIES = see two on your own with a one page report on each. Treat each as an original source for today's audience, a secondary source for the ancient world.

Satyricon. PN1997 .F45 2001 A very strange but interesting tour of Rome in its decadence. Only for very mature tastes.

Ben Hur. PN1997.B45 2005 Charleton Heston in Jerusalem at the time of Christ.

Quo Vadis. PG7158.S4 Q86 2008 Popular Easter film.

Roman Invasions of Britain DA145.C67 1992

VIDEOS = see all of them in the weeks assigned with a one page paper (300 words) on each.

National Geographic articles on Rome: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2006/07/rome-ruins/rome-ruins-learn>

Google Earth pictures: <http://earth.google.com/rome/> and many interactive sites.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One (Aug 29, 31) Introduction. Roman ruins as a text. On the 31st there will be a Map quiz
[H2, R3, V0, P0, T0 = total 2 in-class, 3 out-of class]

Week Two (Sept 3, 5, 7) Augustus (in this and all subsequent assignments read both Suetonius and Tacitus)
I, Claudius, part 1 "A Touch of Murder". PR6013.R35 I23 2008
Rome (television drama series), Season Two, episode #1 PN1992.77 .R664 2006
[H3, R3, V3, P2, T0 = total 3 in-class, 8 out-of class]

Week Three (Sept 10, 12, 14) Tiberius and Caligula
I, Claudius, part 2: "Family Affair".
I, Claudius, part 9: "Zeus, by Jove!"
Rome: Power and Glory Disk 2, part 1 DG209 .R55 1998
[H3, R4, V6, P2, T0 = total 3 in-class, 12 out-of class = a hard week]



Week Four (Sept 17, 19, 21) Claudius and Nero
I, Claudius, part 12: "A God in Colchester"
Roman Invasions of Britain, Episode 1
Nero's Golden House NA320.N476 2009
Tuesday, September 18 "Agatha Christie, Archaeology and Alzheimer's"
Amy E. Barron, University of Toronto (red.barron@utoronto.ca) *She also presents a program on Assyria Monday*
7:30 P.M. in the Morgan Room of Poling Hall *see announcement for time and a ride to Knox*
[H3, R3, V4, P2, T2 = total 3 in-class, 11 out-of class]

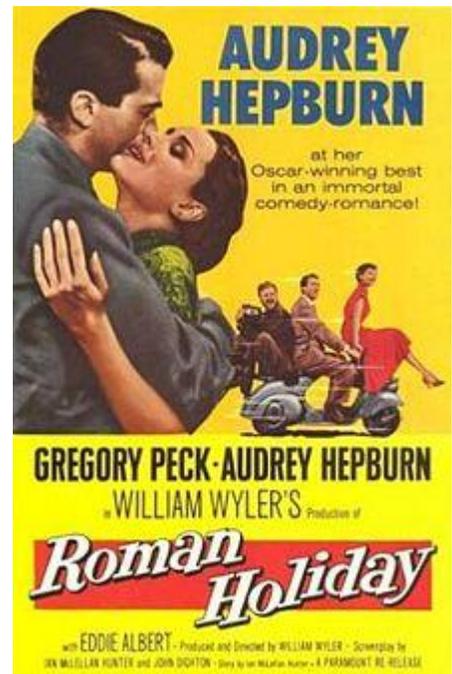
Week Five (Sept 24, 26, 28) Year of the Four Emperors
Rome and Pompeii * D 62 .R8 1994
What coins can tell us as a document.
[H3, R2, V2, P2, T0 = total 3 in-class, 8 out-of class]

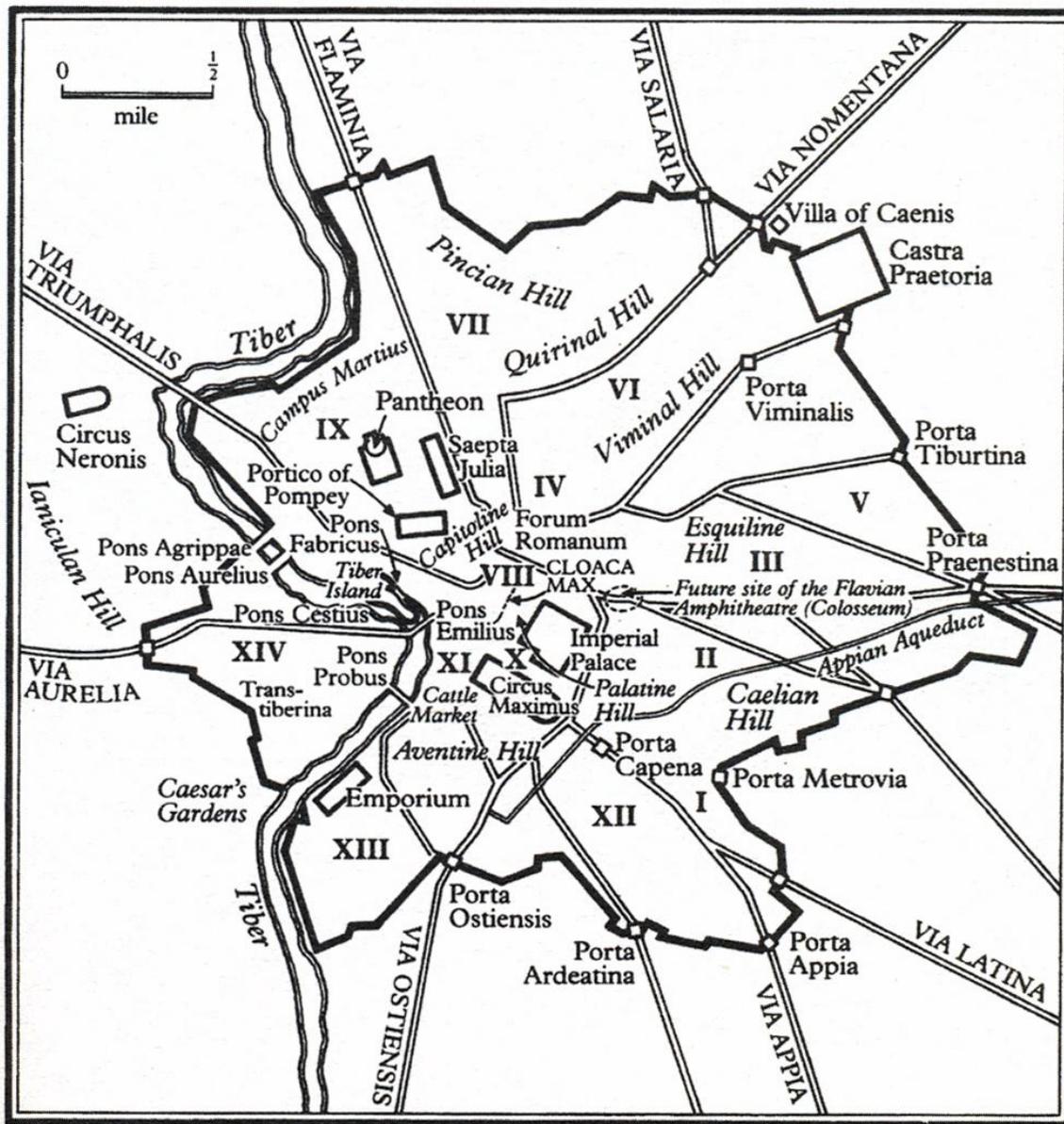
Week Six (Oct 1, 3, 5) oral reports on book reviews
Monday, October 1 "Life in Provincia Arabia: Perspectives from the 2012 Season in Dhiban, Jordan"
Danielle Steen Fatkin, Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Knox College (dfatkin@knox.edu)
7:30 P.M. in the Morgan Room of Poling Hall
[H3, R0, V0, P2, T2 = total 3 in-class, 7 out-of class]

FALL BREAK OCT 6-9

Week Seven (Oct 10 Summary and Oct 12 **FINAL EXAM**)

Extra credit: not available in the Hewes Library
Roman Holiday (1953) 118 min - [Comedy](#) | [Drama](#) | [Romance](#) -1953
A bored and sheltered princess escapes her guardians and falls in love with an American newsman in Rome.
Audrey Hepburn won the Best Actress award Many other awards, too.





Jurisdictions of the Vigiles Cohorts in Rome

- Coh I Regions VII & VIII (via Lata, Forum Romanum)
- Coh II Regions III & V (Isis and Serapis, Esquiline)
- Coh III Regions IV & VI (Temple of Peace, Alta Semita)
- Coh IV Regions XII & XIII (Piscina Publica, Aventine)
- Coh V Regions I & II (Porta Capena, Caelimontium)
- Coh VI Regions X & XI (Palatine, Circus Maximus)
- Coh VII Regions IX & XIV (Circus Flaminius, Transtiberina)

<http://www.lindseydavis.co.uk/Rome%20&%20vigiles%20jurisdictions0001.jpg>

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We can also be reached at: tlc@monmouthcollege.edu or 309-457-2257