

Charles E. Muntz

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Roman Republic & Empire

Fall 2009



Fresco of a woman with a writing tablet from Pompeii, 1st century CE

HIST 4023
MWF 1:30-2:20 pm
Old Main 319
Office: 407 Old Main
Office Hours: W 10:30-11:30, Th 1:00-2:00
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Overview: This class surveys the history of the Romans from 753 BCE to 235 CE, whose achievements in government, history, arts, and literature continue to influence and fascinate us today. We will begin with the pre-history, and move on to the Roman Republic, which endured for more than four hundred years, conquered much of the Mediterranean World, and had a profound impact on the modern United States. The Republic came to the end in the turbulent Civil Wars, which were followed by the rise of one of the most enigmatic and influential figures in history, the Emperor Augustus. From there we will examine the Roman Empire and the often strange men (and women) who controlled its destiny, ending with the Empire at its peak but with chaos and a strange new religion looming on the horizon.

Workload

Quizzes: There will be a short map quiz on September 9. The list of places to know is [here](#), and a blank map for practice is [here](#).

Exams: There will be an in-class midterm on October 14, and a final exam on Tuesday, December 15, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Both will consist of identification, short answer, and essay questions.

Papers: There will be one short (5 pages) and one long (10 pages) paper for this class. The [short paper](#) will be evaluating two ancient sources of the same event, due on September 25. The second paper will be on a topic of the student's choice, due November 30. Before writing your paper, you must prepare a bibliography with at least five modern sources (excluding the textbook) and meet with me to discuss your topic. There will be an in-class sign up for this meeting on October 19.

[First Paper Assignment](#)

[Bibliographic resources for ancient history](#)

[Formatting guidelines](#)

[Grading policies](#)

Participation: Certain class periods are set aside for class discussions. Questions based on the primary sources will be distributed in advance to get things started, but feel free to raise other issues or questions on your own. Grading policies for discussions can be found [here](#).

Attendance: Regular attendance is important. I will allow each student to miss up to four classes without penalty to cover things like illness and religious observances. Please email me in advance if you are going to miss class. For each absence after the first four, unless there is a serious problem, I will lower the final participation grade by 10 points. If you do have to miss a class, make sure you meet with another student to find out what you missed!

Grading:

Quiz 1: 2.5%

Paper 1: 15%

Paper 2 Bibliography: 2.5%

Paper 2: 25%

Participation: 15%

Midterm: 15%

Final: 25%

Reading Materials

Required Texts (Available in the bookstore, or order online):

Boatwright, Mary T. et al. *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. ISBN [0195118766](#) - Abbreviated as Boatwright

Walsh, P. G., trans. *Cicero: Selected Letters*. ISBN [9780199214204](#) - Abbreviated as Cicero, Letters

Waterfield, Robin. Plutarch: Roman Lives. ISBN [9780199537389](#) - Abbreviated as Plutarch
Woodman, A. J. Tacitus: The Annals. ISBN [9780872205581](#) - Abbreviated as Tacitus, Annals

Other readings will be made available via the course website or handouts.

Policies

Equal Access: University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the Center for Educational Access (contact 479-575-3104 or visit <http://cea.uark.edu> for more information on registration procedures).

Inclement Weather: If the University stops running the Razorback Bus System because of snow or bad weather, there will be no class. Otherwise, class is on!

Miscellaneous: Please turn off all cell phones and finish any food you might be eating before coming into class. Drinks are acceptable.

Daily Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1

August 24 - Introduction

August 26 - The Sources for Early Roman History
Boatwright, pp 1-31

August 28 - The Regal Period
Boatwright, pp 32-48
Livy, [Book 1](#)

Week 2

August 31 - The Beginning of the Republic
Boatwright, pp 48-70
Livy, [Book 2](#)

September 2 - Early Roman History Discussion
[The Twelve Tables](#)

September 4 - The Growth of the Republic

Week 3

September 7 - Labor Day, no class!

September 9 - The Conquest of Italy / Map Quiz / [List of Places](#) / [Blank Map](#)
Boatwright, pp 75-95

September 11 - The First Punic War
Boatwright, pp 97-111
[Polybius, Book 1](#)

Week 4

September 14 - The Second Punic War

Boatwright, pp 111-119

[Polybius, Book 3.1-38, 47-60, 77-94, 100-118](#)

September 16 - Polybius Discussion

[Polybius, Book 6](#)

September 18 - The Conquest of the Greeks

Boatwright, pp 119-135

Plutarch, Life of Aemilius Paullus

Week 5

September 21 - Rome and Greek Culture

Plutarch, Life of Cato the Elder

September 23 - The Problems of Empire

Boatwright, 136-165

Plutarch, Lives of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus

September 25 - Marius / [First Paper Due](#)

Boatwright, pp 166-183

Plutarch, Life of Marius

Week 6

September 28 - Sulla and the Coming of Pompey

Boatwright, pp 183-213

Plutarch, Life of Sulla 22-38, Life of Pompey 1-42

September 30 - Cicero

Boatwright, 213-224

Cicero, Letters 1-4

October 2 - The Three-Headed Monster

Boatwright, 225-244

Cicero, Letters 5-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26-28, 30

Week 7

October 5 - Cicero Discussion 1

Cicero, Letters 32-33, 35-36, 38, 40, 45, 47, 51, 54-59, 61, 63

October 7 - The Civil War

Boatwright, pp 244-266

Cicero, Letters 66-67, 69, 72-77, 90-91, 101, 108-110, 112, 115, 121, 123, 125, 127, 131, 133-134

October 9 - Cicero Discussion 2

Cicero, Letters 135-139, 141, 143, 146-151, 154-156, 160-165

Week 8

October 12 - The Rise of Octavian and the Fall of the Republic

Boatwright, pp 267-288

Plutarch, Life of Antony

October 14 - Midterm

October 16 - The Augustan Settlement

Boatwright pp 288-312

[Cassius Dio, Book 53](#)

Week 9

October 19 - The New Era of Augustus / Sign up for paper meetings

October 21 - The Army and the Provinces

October 23 - Augustus Discussion

Boatwright, pp 312-316

[Res Gestae](#)

[Cassius Dio, Book 56.32-47](#)

Tacitus, Annals 1.8-11

Week 10

October 26 - Tiberius

Boatwright pp 317-324

Tacitus, Annals 1.1-71, 2.41-43, 2.53-88, 3.1-19

October 28 - Tacitus Discussion 1

Tacitus, Annals 3.22-30, 2.52-72, 4.1-22, 4.27-41, 4.52-67, 6.1-27, 6.45-51

October 30 - Caligula

Week 11

November 2 - Claudius

Boatwright pp 328-332, esp. the speech on p 329

Tacitus, Annals 11.1-12.69

November 4 - Nero

Boatwright, pp 332-335

Tacitus, Annals 13.1-7, 13.11-29, 13.45-52, 14.1-22, 14.29-65

November 6 - Tacitus Discussion 2

Tacitus, Annals 15.23-25, 15.33-74, 16.1-35

Week 12

November 9 - The Four Emperors

Boatwright, pp 335-340

Suetonius, [Life of Galba](#), [Life of Otho](#), [Life of Vitellius](#)

November 11 - The Flavians

Boatwright, pp 353-364

Suetonius, [Life of Vespasian](#), [Life of Domitian](#)

November 13 - Pompeii

Pliny the Younger, [Letters describing the eruption of Vesuvius](#)

Week 13

November 16 - The Adoptive Emperors

Boatwright, pp 364-392

HA, Life of Hadrian [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

November 18 - The Antonines

Boatwright, pp 393-406

HA, Life of Marcus Aurelius [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

November 20 - The Early Christians

Pliny the Younger, [Letters to Trajan on the Christians](#)

Week 14

November 23 - The Severans

Boatwright 406-416

[Herodian Book 3](#)

Week 15

November 30 - The Age of Anarchy / Second Paper Due

Boatwright, pp. 431-438

December 2 - Diocletian and the Restoration of Power

Boatwright, pp. 438-447

Lactantius, [On the Deaths of the Persecutors 7-24](#)

December 4 - Constantine and the New Rome

Boatwright, pp. 447-457

Eusebius, [Life of Constantine](#)

Week 16

December 7 - Epilogue

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