

CLASSICS 20: DISCOVERING THE ROMANS

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MWF 10:00-11:50 AM Bunche 3143
Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00 PM Dodd 2

COURSE GOALS

1. **What happened?** To be familiar with Roman history and culture; to be able to contextualize it in a broader Mediterranean culture.
2. **How do we know?** To read Roman histories critically; to understand how an author's or a reader's perspective shapes one's understanding of history; to be able to read against a source.
3. **What do we do about it?** To participate in public history writing through contributions to Wikipedia; to connect this process back to Roman historiography.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Boatwright, Mary T. et al. *A Brief History of the Romans*
- Plautus, trans. Amy Richlin. *Rome and the Mysterious Orient: Three Plays by Plautus*.
- Other texts TBD: Livy, Tacitus, Suetonius, Plutarch
- PDFs on course website

PARTICIPATION AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. This class will include both lecture and discussion, and it is crucial that you come prepared for both. In order to meaningfully contribute in class, you will need to have completed the assignments for the day. You may use a phone, tablet, or laptop only to access assigned secondary readings, or if you require the use of one for medical reasons (please discuss this with me). Otherwise, laptops and tablets are not allowed in the classroom, and please put your phone on silent and away.
2. If you require any accommodations due to a disability, please talk to me as soon as possible. I will be happy to provide assistance with reference to examinations or classroom activities.
3. Academic integrity is vital for any course to have meaning. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarizing translations in class or on exams, fabricating information or cited work, deceiving the instructor with respect to assignments or other class-related work, cheating, and sabotaging the work of other students. If you have questions about this policy, please ask—and if you are having any difficulty with the course, please talk to me. I have found that most instances of academic dishonesty result from fear of failure, and the conviction that cheating is the only option. This is a small course, and I am dedicated to helping each of you succeed. It's never too late to get help—please talk to me!

QUIZZES AND EXAMS

There will be short quizzes meant to give you feedback about how closely you are engaging with the assignments, as well as an in class midterm and final exam. The lowest quiz will be dropped.

CLASSICS 20: DISCOVERING THE ROMANS

WIKIPEDIA PROJECT

Rather than a series of papers, this course will focus on adding or improving Wikipedia pages concerning Roman history and culture. You will choose from a list of topics that either do not have a page, or have only a stub associated with them. As a lead up to the final project there will be a series of assignments that will orient you to editing Wikipedia pages and researching your topic.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

- Participation (20%)
- Quizzes (15/16) (15%)
- Midterm (15%)
- Final exam (20%)
- Wikipedia Project (30%)
 - Annotated bibliography (5%)
 - Draft version of article (5%)
 - In class presentation of article (10%)
 - Final article (20%)

Readings are listed for the day they are due.

1 EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND FOUNDATION MYTHS

Wikipedia Project: Orient yourself to Wikipedia policies, features, and culture. Choose your topic and begin your preliminary research on it.

Monday: Introduction to Rome, Wikipedia

Wednesday: Foundation Myths; Introduction to Roman Historiography

- Boatwright, Chapter 2: "Rome's First Centuries"
- Primary source TBD

Friday: Rome's Early Expansion; Wikipedia Policies

- Boatwright, Chapter 3: "Rome and Italy in the Fourth Century"
- Primary source TBD
- Complete Wikipedia training tutorial; create a userpage; introduce yourself to classmates

2 WARS OF EXPANSION AND REPUBLICAN CULTURE

Wikipedia Project: Schedule a meeting this week to discuss the bibliography you have so far, and what a good framework for your article might be. Critically

CLASSICS 20: DISCOVERING THE ROMANS

evaluate an existing article related to ancient Rome, and add 1-2 sentences to an existing page to familiarize yourself with working with sources and Wikipedia's editing protocols.

Monday: Wars of Expansion

- Boatwright, Chapter 4: "The Beginnings of a Mediterranean Empire"
- Primary source TBD

Wednesday: The Results of Expansion; Roman Comedy

- Boatwright, Chapter 5: "Italy and Empire"
- Primary source TBD

Friday: Social Strife in the Republic; Roman Comedy Continued

- Boatwright, Chapter 6: "Italy Threatened, Enfranchised, Divided"
- Primary source TBD
- Critically evaluate an existing article relate to the class, and add 1-2 sentences, with an appropriate citation, to the article.

3 THE END OF THE REPUBLIC

Wikipedia Project: Solidify your bibliography, and explain why you think each source will be helpful to your article. Begin sketching out what the draft will look like in your sandbox.

Monday

- Boatwright, Chapter 7: "The Domination of Sulla and Its Legacy"
- Primary source TBD

Wednesday

- Boatwright, Chapter 8: "End of the Republic"
- Primary source TBD

Friday

- Boatwright, Chapter 9: "Augustus and the Transformation of the Roman World"
- Primary source TBD
- Annotated bibliography due for Wikipedia article

CLASSICS 20: DISCOVERING THE ROMANS

4 JULIO-CLAUDIANS AND FLAVIANS

Wikipedia Project: Continue reading sources and working on the article draft.

Monday

- Boatwright, Chapter 10: "The Early Principate"
- Primary source TBD

Wednesday: MIDTERM

Friday

- Boatwright, Chapter 11: "Military Expansion and its Limits"; ONLY PP. 222-227 (through "Domitian")
- Primary source TBD

5 THE ADOPTIVE EMPERORS, CRISIS OF THE THIRD CENTURY, THE SEVERANS

Wikipedia Project: Complete your article draft. Over the weekend, read your classmates' and leave comments on their talk pages with suggestions for improvement. Read your own.

Monday

- Boatwright, Chapter 11: "Military Expansion and Its Limits"
- Primary source TBD

Wednesday

- Boatwright, Chapter 12: "Italy and the Provinces"
- Primary source TBD

Friday

- Primary source TBD
- Draft of article should be published to Wikipedia page.

6 THE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE

Wikipedia Project: Expand draft and incorporate feedback. Prepare a brief presentation on your experience of working with Wikipedia, and the challenges your particular topic presented.

CLASSICS 20: DISCOVERING THE ROMANS

Monday

- Boatwright, Chapter 13: "The Third and Fourth Centuries"
- Leave at least 1 comment on a classmate's article draft.

Wednesday

- Primary source TBD

Friday: Wrap up and in-class Wikipedia presentations

FINAL EXAM: DATE TBA

FINAL PROJECTS DUE: DATE TBA