

CLASSICS 20: Discovering the Romans

INSTRUCTOR: Andre Matlock

Contact: amatlock@humnet.ucla.edu

Office hours: MW 12:00 - 1:00pm and by appointment in Dodd 2

Course Description and Objectives:

This course offers an introduction to ancient Rome from its beginnings (c. 800 B.C.E.) to the rule of the emperor Constantine (3rd century C.E.). We will examine key historical moments and cultural phenomena during this period, including imperial expansion, government, religion, philosophy, ethnicity, and gender/sexuality. We will contextualize these important features of Roman life within the Mediterranean world, aiming to broaden our understanding of cultural interaction in antiquity. At the same time, however, this is not a history course; our focus will not be to cover exhaustively every important figure and moment from Roman history. Rather, this course aims to provide a synthetic and dense understanding of Roman culture—the daily experiences that defined Roman life for various types of people in various times and places, the military and political achievements and failures that accompanied the development of this small central Italian town into a global imperial power, and the various ways in which Roman history continues to exert its influence on modern life and culture.

The scope and breadth of the course will require us to examine a variety of primary sources from antiquity. We will spend time developing the specific skills that are needed to analyze and interpret ancient texts, visual and plastic arts, architecture, and other material remains. Additionally, students will be required to strengthen and communicate their interpretative skills in two written assignments, which will be the focal point of our class work. Students will gain a firm grounding in how to read and analyze primary sources and, by the end of the course, will acquire considerable knowledge of this significant ancient culture and the ability to communicate that knowledge.

GE Foundation Areas: Arts and Humanities (Literary and Cultural Analysis) OR Society and Culture (Historical Analysis).

Required Texts: (*Please be sure to get the exact translation and edition, because translations can vary widely*):

TEXTBOOK:

Antony Kamm and Abigail Graham, *The Romans: An Introduction*, 3rd edition. Routledge, 2014. ISBN 9781138776685

PRIMARY SOURCES:

LIVY. *The Rise of Rome*. Translated by T.J. Luce. Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN 9780199540044.

PETRONIUS. *The Satyricon*. Translated by P.G. Walsh. Oxford University Press, 2009.

ISBN 9780199539215.

PLAUTUS. *Four Comedies*. Translated by Erich Segal. Oxford University Press, 2008.
ISBN 9780199540563.

VIRGIL. *Aeneid*. Translated by Sarah Ruden. Yale University Press, 2009.
ISBN 9780300151411.

Assessment:

Participation (20%)

In class, you should be asking questions, presenting your own interpretations and actively listening and responding to what your classmates have to say. Students are expected not only to be present in class, but also to contribute regularly to the class discussion.

Response Papers (2) (30%)

- Two 5 page essays that analyze one or more primary sources; prompts/guidelines to be distributed in weeks 2 and 4.
- Optional 'bust' project in lieu of second paper – guidelines in week 4.

Quiz (2) (20%)

Two short 'close reading' quizzes, which will focus on material from previous readings and lectures.

Final Exam (30%)

Rules & Regulations:

- Readings should be done before the class meeting for which they are assigned.
- Please make every effort to attend class as absences will seriously impede your understanding of course material and affect your participation grade.
- Late work will be accepted only with prior permission.

Academic Misconduct:

Plagiarism of any kind, as well as giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on examinations, will not be tolerated in any way. You can familiarize yourself with the University's policies on academic integrity at deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity/conduct.

Accessible Education:

The Center for Accessible Education (CAE) coordinates accommodations and services for all UCLA students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted CAE, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in A255 Murphy Hall; their phone number is (310) 825-1501. Information about their services can be found at <http://www.cae.ucla.edu/>.

Course Schedule

*All reading assignments are to be completed *before* class for the day they are listed.

*** This syllabus is liable to change. Any changes will be announced in class and over email.***

Week 1: Rome in History and Myth

AUG 5 M: *Discussion:* What is Rome?

Reading: Livy, preface; Kamm pg. 1-2, 148, 193-196, 197, 246-248

AUG 7 W: *Discussion:* Foundations in religion, culture and politics

Reading: Kamm pg. 2-21; 121-133

AUG 9 F: *Discussion:* Kings and the early Republic

Reading: Livy 1.1-1.17 (through death of Romulus); 1.56-1.60 (pillar and snake to end of book 1); Kamm pg. 22-32

Week 2: Republican Rome

AUG 12 M: *Discussion:* Expansion and the Origins of Empire

Reading: Kamm: 33-50; 220-226; (Get started on Plautus “The Braggart Soldier”)

AUG 14 W: *Discussion:* Greece and the Beginnings of Roman literary culture

Reading: Plautus “The Braggart Soldier”; Kamm pg. 198-205

AUG 16 F: *Discussion:* Republic in Crisis (part I)

Reading: Cicero (selections from *Pro Caelio* and the letters with Caelius Rufus provided); Kamm pg. 50-61

Week 3: Augustan Rome

AUG 19 M: *Discussion:* Crisis (part II)

Reading: Plutarch *Life of Julius Caesar* (excerpts provided); Catullus (selection provided); Kamm 61-74

AUG 21 W: *Discussion:* Augustus and the Julio-Claudians

Reading: Virgil, *Aeneid* bks 1, 6, 8; Kamm 74-87

AUG 23 F: Gender and Sexuality under Augustus

Reading: Virgil, *Aeneid* bk 4, Ovid *Ars Amatoria* (selection provided), Sulpicia (selection provided)

QUIZ # 1 in class

Week 4: Imperial Society

AUG 26 M: *Discussion*: Wealth and Poverty

Reading: Plutarch *Life of Nero* (excerpt provided); Kamm pg. 87-90, 145-147, 149-153, 213-215

AUG 28 W: *Discussion*: Slaves and Freedmen

Reading: Petronius "Dinner at Trimalchio's"; Kamm pg. 162-165, 212-213, 167-172

AUG 30 F: *Discussion*: Philosophy under Autocracy

Reading: Seneca *Letters* (selections provided); Kamm pg. 90-98, 166-167, 182-186, 215-219

Week 5: Mass Culture

SEPT 2 M: **LABOR DAY. No class.**

SEPT 4 W: *Discussion*: Mass Entertainment and Pompeii

Reading: Pliny on Pompeii (provided); Seneca *Letters* (selection provided); article on Pompeiian graffiti (provided); Kamm 172-176, 180-182, 186-196

SEPT 6 F: *Discussion*: High Empire

Reading: Juvenal *Satires* (selection provided); Tacitus *Agricola* (selection provided); *Life of Marcus Aurelius* from *Historia Augusta* (selection provided); Kamm 99-112; 227-231

QUIZ # 2 in class

Week 6: Christianity and Constantine

SEPT 9 M: *Discussion*: Outsider interactions (Mystery Cults, Christianity, Judaism)

Reading: *Passion of Perpetua* (provided), Tacitus *Histories* 5.2-5 (provided); Kamm 133-144

SEPT 12 W: *Discussion*: Third Century and Constantine

Reading: Kamm 112-120

SEPT 13 F: FINAL EXAM in class