California State University, Sacramento
The Culture of Classical Rome
Spring 2015

Huma nities and Religious Studies 114-01  Dr. Jeffrey Brodd.  Email: jbrodd@csus.edu
Mendocino 4004  Office: Mendocino 2024.  278-7703.  Hours:  
Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-2:45  M, W 11:00-11:45; T 4:00–5:45; and by appt.

Catalog Description: Study of Roman culture and its influence. Emphasis on art, architecture, literature,  
history, philosophy and religion of Rome from the early Republic to the end of the Western Empire.  
•  HRS 114 counts toward Area C2: Humanities of the CSUS General Education requirements.

We read extensively both primary sources (from graffiti and inscriptions to major works of prose and poetry)  
and scholarship. Lectures will be supplemented by visual presentation of the arts and architecture, and by class  
discussion of all aspects of our study.

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete HRS 114 will be able to:
•  Explain in detail the main aspects of classical Roman culture.  
•  Describe Roman influence on later Western civilization.  
•  Identify and describe the basic values that shaped Roman culture.  
•  Demonstrate analytical reading skills, the ability simultaneously to extract and construct meaning when  
  reading diverse works relating to classical Roman culture.  
•  Demonstrate written communication skills, through using appropriate structure, development, usage, and  
  reference sources to write clear, purposeful, analytical prose.  
•  Demonstrate critical thinking skills, through comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and  
  events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

Texts

Required
Jo-Ann Shelton, ed., As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History, 2nd ed.  
Virgil, Aeneid (trans. Robert Fitzgerald)  

Standard reference works (not required for course)
John Boardman et al., eds., The Cambridge Ancient History, 2nd ed., multi-volume (Library 2 South: D  
Nicholas G. L. Hammond, editor-in-chief, Atlas of the Greek and Roman World in Antiquity (Library  
Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth, eds., The Oxford Classical Dictionary, 4th ed. (Library  
  provides online access; 3rd ed. is available at Library 2 North Reference: DE 5 .09 1996)  
M. C. Howatson, The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature, 3rd ed. (Library provides online  
  access; 2nd ed. is available at Library 2 North Reference: PA 31 .H69 1989)

SacCT and Turnitin

Our course SacCT 9.1 site will provide access to the syllabus, instructions on papers and other handouts, and  
grades. Papers are to be submitted via Turnitin (instructions will be provided).
Requirements and Grading

Active engagement with course content—readings, visual representations, lecture material—is essential. All reading assignments are to be completed prior to the meetings for which they are listed (see “Schedule and Assignments” below). Vocal participation in class is encouraged. Formal requirements and their correlative course grade percentages consist of the following:

- Attendance and quality of participation: 5%
- Two quizzes: 10%
- Two brief written responses to readings: 10%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Analytical paper (app. 2,000 words): 25%
- Final exam: 30%

A passing grade in the course requires (at a minimum) completion of the midterm exam, the final exam, and the analytical paper. The response papers must be handed in on the designated due dates (detailed assignment instructions will be provided). A late analytical paper will be accepted within two days of the due date only, with a reduction of one full letter grade. Quizzes and exams must be taken at their scheduled times. Attendance is required; consult with the instructor if ever there is a need to miss class. Compliance with rules prohibiting cheating and plagiarism along with principles of courteous conduct are required (i.e., turn off cell phones and pagers, no ‘chatting’ during class, no leaving class without prior permission, no walking in front of the instructor if ever one needs to arrive late) (for the University’s policy on plagiarism, see: http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

Grades for assignments and for the course will be based on the following (e.g., 92% and above is an A):
- A 92, A- 88, B+ 84, B 78, B- 74, C+ 70, C 64, C- 60, D+ 56, D 50, D- 46, F below 46

Note: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008; 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with the instructor after class or during office hours early in the semester.

Schedule and Assignments (reading assignments are underlined and are to be completed by date listed)

Introductions
Mon 1/26 Introductions
Wed 1/28 Roman values, As the Romans Did (ARD) 1-3, The Roman Ideal, “Horatius at the Bridge”

Origins of the city, the Republic, and the early Empire
Mon 2/2 The Romans (Romans), 1-21; ARD, 4-11 (“Class Structure”); also peruse Romans, 245-256 (Appendix 2, Roman Names and Nomenclature; Appendix 3, Historical Timeline) and ARD, 453-456 (Appendix 3, Important Dates and Events)
Wed 2/4 Romans, 244 (Appendix 1, The Constitution of the Roman Republic) and 22-80 (to “Tiberius”)

A national epic: the Aeneid
Mon 2/9 Virgil, Aeneid (I-V)
Wed 2/11 Virgil, Aeneid (VI-VII)
Mon 2/16 Virgil, Aeneid (VIII-XII)
Wed 2/18 Response due

The “Roman Peace” and the burdens of Empire
Mon 2/23 Romans, 80-120 (from “Tiberius”)
Wed 2/25 Quiz
Governance, law, and the army
Mon 3/2 Review Romans, 244 (Appendix 1, The Constitution of the Roman Republic) and 22-29; ARD, 203-242 (ch. X, Government and Politics)
Wed 3/4 ARD, 268-272 and 284-287 (from ch. XII, The Provinces); Romans, 220-231 (ch. 9, The Roman Army); ARD, 243-267 (ch. XI, The Roman Army)

Religion and philosophy
Mon 3/9 Romans, 121-144 (ch. 5, Roman Religions and Mythology); ARD, 359-369 (from ch. XV, Religion and Philosophy)
Wed 3/11 ARD, 369-404 (from ch. XV, Religion and Philosophy)
Mon 3/16 ARD, 404-430 (from ch. XV, Religion and Philosophy)

Domestic life, work, education, and leisure
Mon 3/23 Romans, 145-176 (ch. 6, Society and Daily Life); ARD, 59-78 (ch. IV, Housing and the City Life)
Mon 4/6 ARD, 123-133 and 148-162 (from ch. VII, Occupations), 452 (Appendix 2, Roman Money), and 16-36 (ch. II, Families)
Wed 4/8 ARD, 37-58 (ch. III, Marriage) and 288-306 (ch. XIII, Women in Roman Society)
Mon 4/13 ARD, 79-99 (ch. V, Domestic and Personal Concerns) and 100-122 (ch. VI, Education)
Wed 4/15 ARD 307-358 (ch. XIV, Leisure and Entertainment)
Mon 4/20 Quiz

Drama, satire, and other literary forms
Wed 4/22 Romans, 197-219 (ch. 8, Latin Literature) and 257-258 (Appendix 4, Literature Timeline) (peruse ARD, 440-451: Appendix 1, Sources)
Mon 4/27 Seneca, Apocolocyntosis (including Introduction and endnotes), 209-242; Petronius, Satyricon, 11-26 (remainder of Introduction optional), 37-50 (endnotes, 185-188) “Puteoli”
Wed 4/29 Petronius, Satyricon, 51-125 (endnotes, 188-197) “Dinner with Trimalchio” and “Eumolpus”
Mon 5/4 Response due

Art and architecture
Wed 5/6 Romans, 177-196 (ch. 7, Art, Architecture and Engineering)
Mon 5/11 Paper due

‘Decline and Fall’ / ‘Eternal City’
Wed 5/13 Romans, 232-243 (ch. 10, Christian Rome); ARD, 431 (Vergil and T. S. Eliot)

Final exam: Monday, May 18, 12:45–2:45 p.m.

NB: Jo-Ann Shelton offers a great deal of help in As the Romans Did through cross-referencing footnotes throughout the texts, but the reader needs to know the page numbers of her chapters; hence this list.