

California State University, Sacramento
The Culture of Classical Rome
Spring 2009

Humanities and Religious Studies 114-01
Mendocino 4004
Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00-4:15

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Office: Mendocino 2028 278-7703
Hours: TR 12:15-1:15, T 4:45-5:45, and by appt.

This course is a study of Roman culture and its influence. It emphasizes the art, architecture, literature, history, philosophy and religion of Rome from the early Republic to the end of the Western Empire. 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 can expect, through diligent engagement with course assignments, meetings, and requirements, to achieve the following:

- Increased appreciation of the main aspects of classical Roman culture, and of Roman influence on later Western civilization
- Understanding of the basic values that underlie Roman culture
- Enhancement of critical reasoning skills, especially through interpretive study of primary source material
- Development of analytical reading skills through study of significant works of classical literature and scholarship
- Improvement of writing skills, through completion of an analytical paper and two response papers to assigned readings

Texts

Required

Peter Jones and Keith Sidwell, eds., *The World of Rome: An Introduction to Roman Culture*
Jo-Ann Shelton, ed., *As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History*, 2nd ed.
Virgil, *Aeneid* (trans. Robert Fitzgerald)
Petronius, *The Satyricon* and Seneca, *The Apocolocyntosis* (trans. John Sullivan)

Standard reference works and Library call numbers (not required for course)

John Boardman et al., eds., *The Cambridge Ancient History*, multi-volume (Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection: Reference)
Tim Cornell and John Matthews, *Atlas of the Roman World* (DG 77 .C597 – Library Use Only)
Nicholas G. L. Hammond, editor-in-chief, *Atlas of the Greek and Roman World in Antiquity* (G 1033 .A84 1981 – Library Use Only)
Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth, eds., *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd Rev. Ed. (Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection: DE 5 .09 2003 – Library Use Only)
M. C. Howatson, *The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature*, 2nd ed. (Reference: PA 31 .H69 1989 – Library Use Only)

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 (2 page) written responses to readings	(10%)
Midterm exam	(20%)
Analytical paper (app. 8 pages)	(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.

A late paper will be accepted for up to one week only, with daily reduction of grade. Late responses to readings will not be accepted. Quizzes and exams must be taken at their scheduled times. Attendance is required, as per departmental attendance policy – a student’s course grade may be reduced due to an excessive number of unexcused absences. 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>).

Ultimately each student’s course grade will be based upon the total number of points achieved by the end of the semester. In the meantime, though, students might be interested in knowing how their point totals on quizzes, exams, and the analytical paper correlate to the percentages that will be applied to determine course grades. The following table is designed to indicate the minimum number of points needed to correlate to each letter grade (determined based on the percentages in the second column).

Grade	%	Quiz (25 pts)	Midterm (100 pts)		Paper (125 pts)		Final (150 pts)
				15 pts (short essays)		25 pts (rubric)	
A	92	23	92	13.8	115	23	152
A-	88	22	88	13.2	110	22	145
B+	84	21	84	12.6	105	21	138.5
B	78	19.5	78	11.7	97.5	19.5	129
B-	74	18.5	74	11.1	92.5	18.5	122
C+	70	17.5	70	10.5	87.5	17.5	115.5
C	64	16	64	9.6	80	16	105.5
C-	60	15	60	9.0	75	15	99
D+	56	14	56	8.4	70	14	92.5
D	50	12.5	50	7.5	62.5	12.5	82.5
D-	46	11.5	46	6.9	57.5	11.5	76

(Below 46% is failing)

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 (Complete all underlined reading assignments by the dates indicated)

Introductions

- Tues 1/27 Introductions
 Thur 1/29 Roman values. As the Romans Did (ARD) 1-3 (“The Roman Ideal: Horatius at the Bridge”)

Overview of political history

- Tues 2/3 World of Rome (WR), 1-48 (ch. 1: The idea of Rome [753-31 BC]); peruse ARD, 453-456 (Appendix 3: Important Dates and Events)
 Thur 2/5 ARD, 4-11 (“Class Structure”); WR, 49-82 (ch. 2: Rome’s new kings [31 BC – AD 476]); peruse WR, 328-330 (Appendix 1: Roman emperors)

A national epic: the *Aeneid*

- Tues 2/10 Virgil, *Aeneid* (I-V)
 Thur 2/12 Virgil, *Aeneid* (VI-VII)
 Tues 2/17 Virgil, *Aeneid* (VIII-XII)
 Thur 2/19 **Response due**

Governance and law

- Tues 2/24 WR, 83-111 (ch. 3: *Princeps* and *imperator*); WR, 112-139 (ch. 4: Governing Rome)
 Thur 2/26 ARD, 203-242 (ch. X: Government and Politics)
 Tues 3/3 ARD, 243-267 (ch. XI: The Roman Army); ARD, 268-287 (ch. XII: The Provinces)
 Thur 3/5 **Quiz**

Society and economy

- Tues 3/10 WR, 140-180 (ch. 5: The life of the city); ARD, 59-78 (ch. IV: Housing and City Life)
 Thur 3/12 ARD, 11-15 (“Patronage”); ARD, 163-185 (ch. VIII: Slaves); ARD, 186-202 (ch. IX: Freedmen and Freedwomen)
 Tues 3/17 WR, 181-207 (ch. 6: Production and consumption); peruse ARD, 452 (Appendix 2: Roman Money); ARD, 123-162 (ch. VII: Occupations)

Families and domestic life

- Thur 3/19 WR, 208-234 (ch. 7: The Roman family); ARD, 16-36 (ch. II: Families); ARD, 37-58 (ch. III: Marriage)
 Tues 3/24 ARD, 288-306 (ch. XIII: Women in Roman Society); ARD, 79-99 (ch. V: Domestic and Personal Concerns)

Midterm exam: Thursday 3/26 (in class)

Leisure and education

- Tues 4/7 ARD, 307-358 (ch. XIV: Leisure and Entertainment)
 Thur 4/9 ARD, 100-122 (ch. VI: Education)

Religion and philosophy

- Tues 4/14 WR, 235-261 (ch. 8: The Roman mind); ARD, 359-391 (first part of ch. XV: Religion and

Thur 4/16 Philosophy
ARD, 391-430 (conclusion of ch. XV)
 Tues 4/21 **Response due**

Drama, satire, and other literary forms

Thur 4/23 WR, 262-286 (ch. 9: Roman literature); peruse WR, 331-346 (Appendix 2: Latin and Greek writers); peruse ARD, 440-451 (Appendix 1: Sources); video (in-class): *Miles Gloriosus* (full-length text version available at: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?lookup=Pl.+Mil.>)
 Tues 4/28 **Quiz.** Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis* (including Introduction), 209-242
 Thur 4/30 Petronius, *Satyricon*, 16-18 (remainder of Introduction is optional), 37-91. **Paper assigned**
 Tues 5/5 (No reading assigned)

Art and architecture

Thur 5/7 WR, 287-316 (ch. 10: Roman art and architecture)
 Tues 5/12 (No reading assigned)

‘Decline and Fall’ / ‘Eternal City’

Thur 5/14 WR, 317-327 (Epilogue: The ghosts of Rome); ARD, 431 (Vergil and T. S. Eliot). **Paper due**

Final exam: Tuesday, 5/19, 3:00-4:00

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

Ch. I	4-15
Ch. II	16-36
Ch. III	37-58
Ch. IV	59-78
Ch. V	79-99
Ch. VI	100-122
Ch. VII	123-162
Ch. VIII	163-185
Ch. IX	186-202
Ch. X	203-242
Ch. XI	243-267
Ch. XII	268-287
Ch. XIII	288-306
Ch. XIV	307-358
Ch. XV	359-430