

**California State University, Sacramento**  
**The Culture of Classical Rome**  
**Spring 2007**

**Humanities and Religious Studies 114-01**  
**Mendocino 4004**  
**Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:45**

**Professor Jeffrey Brodd. Email: jbrodd@csus.edu**  
**Office: Mendocino 2028. 278-7703. Hours:**  
**T 10:20-11:20, 4:20-5:20; R 12:20-1:20; 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. (General Education Area C4.)

### **Texts**

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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
Virgil, *Aeneid* (trans. Robert Fitzgerald)  
Petronius, *The Satyricon* and Seneca, *The Apocolocyntosis* (trans. John Sullivan)

### **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

### **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).

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

(Below 46% is failing)

**Schedule and Assignments** (Complete all underlined reading assignments by the dates indicated)

**Introductions**

- Tues 1/30 Overview of course  
 Thur 2/1 Roman values. *As the Romans Did* (ARD) 1-3, The Roman Ideal, “Horatius at the Bridge”

**Overview of political history**

- Tues 2/6 *World of Rome* (WR), 1-48 (ch. 1: The idea of Rome [753-31 BC]); peruse WR, 328-330 (Appendix 1: Roman emperors); also peruse ARD, 453-456 (Appendix 3: Important Dates and Events)  
 Thur 2/8 ARD, 4-11 (“Class Structure”); WR, 49-82 (ch. 2: Rome’s new kings [31 BC – AD 476])

**A national epic: the *Aeneid***

- Tues 2/13 Virgil, *Aeneid* (I-V)  
 Thur 2/15 Virgil, *Aeneid* (VI-VII)  
 Tues 2/20 Virgil, *Aeneid* (VIII-XII)  
 Thur 2/22 **Response due**

**Governance**

- Tues 2/27 WR, 83-111 (ch. 3: *Princeps* and *Imperator*); WR, 112-139 (ch. 4: Governing Rome)  
 Thur 3/1 ARD, 203-242 (ch. X: Government and Politics)  
 Tues 3/6 ARD, 243-267 (ch. XI: The Roman Army); ARD, 268-287 (ch. XII: The Provinces)  
 Thur 3/8 **Quiz**

**Society and economy**

- Tues 3/13 WR, 140-180 (ch. 5: The life of the city); ARD, 59-78 (ch. IV: Housing and the City Life)  
 Thur 3/15 ARD, 11-15 (“Patronage”); ARD, 163-185 (ch. VIII: Slaves); ARD, 186-202 (ch. IX: Freedmen and Freedwomen)  
 Tues 3/20 WR, 181-207 (ch. 6: Production and consumption); peruse ARD, 452 (Appendix 2: Roman Money); ARD, 123-162 (ch. VII: Occupations)  
 Thur 3/22 **Midterm**

**(Spring Break)**

**Families and domestic life**

- Tues 4/3 WR, 208-234 (ch. 7: The Roman family); ARD, 16-36 (ch. II: Families); ARD, 37-58 (ch. III: Marriage)  
 Thur 4/5 ARD, 288-306 (ch. XIII: Women in Roman Society); ARD, 79-99 (ch. V: Domestic and Personal Concerns)

**Leisure and education**

- Tues 4/10 ARD, 307-358 (ch. XIV: Leisure and Entertainment)  
 Thur 4/12 ARD, 100-122 (ch. VI: Education)

**Religion, philosophy, and law**

- Tues 4/17 WR, 235-261 (ch. 8: The Roman mind); ARD, 359-391 (first part of ch. XV: Religion and Philosophy)  
 Thur 4/19 ARD, 391-430 (conclusion of ch. XV)  
 Tues 4/24 **Response due**

**Drama, satire, and other literary forms**

- Thur 4/26 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:
- Tues 5/1 **Quiz.** Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis* (including Introduction), 209-242
- Thur 5/3 Petronius, *Satyricon*, 16-18 (remainder of Introduction is optional), 37-91. **Paper assigned**
- Tues 5/8 (No reading assigned)

**Art and architecture**

- Thur 5/10 WR, 287-316 (ch. 10: Roman art and architecture)
- Tues 5/15 (No reading assigned)

**‘Decline and Fall’ / ‘Eternal City’**

- Thur 5/17 WR, 317-327 (Epilogue: The ghosts of Rome); ARD, 431 (Vergil and T. S. Eliot). **Paper due**

**Final exam:** Thursday, May 24, 12:45-2:45

**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