

# **HIST 131: ANCIENT ROME**

Fall, 2009 / MW 5b

## **PROFESSOR DENNIS GLEW COMENIUS HALL 308**

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### **COURSE GOALS:**

By the end of this course I hope that you will:

1. Be able to discuss with reasonable specificity the “data” of Roman history and life: the chief places, people, and institutions of the Roman world.
2. Understand in broad terms how the main features of Roman culture (including politics, religion, the law, the family, and the military) developed over time.
3. Be able to describe and illustrate:
  - a. The main types of evidence for the study of Roman history
  - b. The historical disciplines (including philology, archaeology, epigraphy, papyrology, and numismatics) that have been developed to exploit this evidence
  - c. The chief methods of each discipline.
4. Understand more fully the issues involved in historical research, generally, including:
  - a. The distinction between primary and secondary sources
  - b. The conventions of historical writing
  - c. How to prepare for exams.

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

D. Brendan Nagle, *Ancient Rome: A History*. Sloan Publishing: Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY. 2009.

### **GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:**

2 hourly exams: 45% (= 22.5% each)  
1 4-5 page paper: 20%

Final exam: 25%

Class participation: 10%

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

You may take a total of 2 unexcused cuts in this course. That is the equivalent of a week of class meetings. I take attendance each day (chiefly because I want to learn everyone's names), and I will know if you are missing.

Only if you are unable to attend class will your absence be excused. Acceptable reasons include a health issue (which must be documented by a doctor) or another emergency sufficient to warrant the absence. In all cases I will decide whether or not your absence is excusable.

Missing class is a bad idea, even if you take an excused cut. Someone else's notes do not compensate for the discussion or other activities in which you did not participate. Material covered in class figures prominently in examinations.

For each unexcused absence beyond 2 your class participation grade will be reduced 1 point. Please be careful: 1 point from 100 can be the difference between a C and a D, and a student who misses many classes might lose as many as 10 points.

All assignments are due in class on the announced day. Overdue assignments will be reduced one letter grade per day.

Examinations may be made up only if the absence is excused.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Please be sure to review Moravian's Policy on Academic Honesty, which is printed in the Student Handbook. If there is reason to believe that you have not carried out any part of the policy, I will refer the case to the Academic Affairs office for investigation and possible action.

Except while writing examinations you are welcome to speak with classmates and others about any aspect of Roman history that interests you. (In written assignments be sure to acknowledge their assistance explicitly in your text or notes.) But no one else should do your work for you. You must write your own paper, for example, even if you ask others (e.g., a tutor at the Writing Center) to critique a draft. As the Academic Honesty policy provides, you must be able to document that you have done all stages of the work on assignment yourself.

Plagiarism will be punished by a failing grade in the course.

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1.	M., Aug. 31	Introduction	Nagle: note "organization & argument" of each
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			<p>section.</p> <p><i>What makes the modern world "modern"?</i></p>
2.	W., Sept. 2	Nagle, 1*	Mediterranean; Climate, food & economy; population & demography; political & cultural themes.
3.	W., Sept. 9	Nagle, 2-3	<p>Inscriptions; literacy; coins; archaeology</p> <p>Fragmented environment &amp; culture; rise to power; the Roman explanation; end of monarchy.</p> <p><a href="#">The XII Tables</a></p>
4.	M., Sept. 14	Nagle, 4*	<p>Regal period; Rome &amp; Latins; Oscan threat; fall of Veii; colonies; Celts; Roman recovery.</p> <p>End of Latin League; Roman footprint in Italy; Roman military.</p> <p>Samnite Wars: Strategic issues; isolating N &amp; S; Pyrrhus.</p>
5.	W., Sept. 16	Nagle, 5	<p>Hybrid polis stage I: attaching the aristocracy. II: the plebeian state.</p> <p>Army pay; land shortage &amp; debt; new nobility.</p> <p>Hybrid army: modular legion; arms &amp; organization.</p> <p>Social underpinnings: religion. Roman household.</p> <p><a href="#">The Manipular Army</a></p>
6.	M., Sept. 21	Nagle, 6*	Carthaginian Wars: Phoenicians, Carthage & west; 1 <sup>st</sup> Punic War (264-41); bwn wars; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Punic War (218-202).
7.	W., Sept. 23	Nagle, 7	Empire: Conquest of Cisalpine Gaul; S. Italy; Iberia; Macedonia & the East; end of Carthage.

			Imperialism. <a href="#">Slavery in Roman Italy</a>
8.	M., Sept. 28	EXAM 1	
9.	W., Sept. 30	Nagle, 8	Part Two: Intro. Economic transformation. Cultural transformation: history writing. Impact of empire on society. Disintegration of compact with Italy.  DVD "Seven Wonders of Ancient Rome": Roads.
10.	M., Oct. 5	Nagle, 9*	Gracchi: Manpower problem; reform efforts; role of tribunes; Popular politics; Gracchan program The. Gaius Gracchus.
11.	W., Oct. 7	Nagle, 10	Unraveling of the constitution. Marius. Social War. Sulla. Nature of the breakdown.  <a href="#">A Roman Candidate's Handbook</a>
12.	W., Oct. 14	Nagle, 11*	Fall of Republic: Sulla to Octavian. Special commands; Spartacus; pirates; Mithridates again. Debt & discontent in Rome: Catiline. 1 <sup>st</sup> Triumvirate. Caesar in Gaul. Civil wars. Octavian. Social & cultural transformations: religion, temples, <i>Divus Iulius</i> , household & family; Roman lit. comes of age. Summary: Fall of Republic.
13.	M., Oct. 19	Nagle, 12	Part III: Republic restored: Principate of Augustus. Historiography: Tacitus, Res Gestae, Livy, others; modern views.
14.	W., Oct. 21	Nagle, 12 (cont'd.)	The Augustan Settlement: Break-up or restoration; Insurmountable problems: Army, the Elite, the People, order in the city. Building program. Religious & social reforms. CEO: how Augustus ran the empire.  <a href="#">Res Gestae Divi Augusti</a>

15.	M., Oct. 26	Nagle, 13*	Part IV: Making permanent the Augustan Settlement. Succession: The candidates. Expanding the empire under Augustus. Julio-Claudian emperors.
16.	W., Oct. 28	Nagle, 14	From Nero to Commodus. Yr. of the four emperors; Flavians; Adopted Emperors.  Video: "The True Story of the Roman Arena."
17.	M., Nov. 2	EXAM 2	
18.	W., Nov. 4	Nagle, 15	Part V: What held empire together: institutional factors. Power of emperor; imperial responsibilities; image; new political culture; imperial patronage; cursus honorum in principate; senatorial cursus; equestrian cursus. Provinces: new system of governors; appeal; Roman-style bureaucracy. Army: Real costs; military matters; strategic reserve; officer corps; fighting qualities. Genius of the Roman military.
19.	M., Nov. 9	Nagle, 15* (cont'd.)	
20.	W., Nov. 11	Nagle, 16	What held the empire together: Social & cultural factors. Municipia, colonies & diaspora. Romans: where were they? Roman senate & the provinces. Cultural unity of imperial elite. Religions of the empire: unity in diversity. Emperor worship & unity. Urbanism & imperial coherence: attraction of cities; games; baths. What kind of state was the Roman Empire?  DVD "Seven Wonders of Ancient Rome": Aqueducts.
21.	M., Nov. 16	Nagle, 17*  PAPER DUE	Part VI: Rome on the Defense: The Third Century A.D. Loss of balance: imperial succession. Several emperors: Pertinax, repeat of AD 69; Septimius Severus & family; problem of underage emperors; Severan legacy. Third-century crisis: Imperial security; political anarchy (problem w/ army, divided empire;

			"holding a wolf by its ears."
22.	W., Nov. 18	Nagle, 18	<p>Challenge of Monotheism. Cultural setting; Rabbinic Judaism; Forms of monotheism; Revolutionary monotheism; early Christianity; the Founders; Romans &amp; Christians.</p> <p><a href="#">The Value of Roman Citizenship. Read Acts 23-26 (beginning here)</a></p>
23.	M., Nov. 23	Nagle, 18* (cont'd.)	<p><a href="#">Christian Beginnings</a></p> <p><a href="#">What scholars think about Christians and pagans</a></p>
24.	M., Nov. 30	Nagle, 19	Part VII: Late Antiquity: Rome Reinvents Itself. Diocletian; Constantine; heresies & growth of Church; Constantine's choices; administration & defense.
25.	W., Dec. 2	Nagle, 20	Final transformations: east & west. Struggle for succession; last emperors in West; rise of Germanic kingdoms; rise of Byzantine Empire. Islam & transformation of Mediterranean
26.	M., Dec. 7	Presentations	<p>The Fall of Rome: Why did it happen? For a nutshell summary of a new book on the subject, see:</p> <p><a href="#">Peter Heather in "HNN"</a></p>
27.	W., Dec. 9	Presentations	<p>Is the U.S. the "new Rome"? The main points in the debate are reviewed by:</p> <p><a href="#">Jonathan Freedland in "The Guardian"</a></p>
28.	M., Dec. 14, 1:30 pm		Final Examination