

CLAS1010H: Roman Culture
T/Th 12:30-1:45, Park 113
University of Georgia
Fall 2006

Professor Mario Erasmo
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Office Hours: T/Th 11:00- 12:00

Course Description:

A survey course of Roman culture, through Latin literature, from the foundation of Rome to the early Empire. We will consider primary source material in its cultural contexts, focusing especially on the late Republic and early Empire. This course satisfies area F, therefore the emphasis is on literature, rather than on material culture. Authors studied represent a variety of literary genres: history, epigram, epic, and the novel. All readings in English. Films will complement themes discussed in readings. Please consult www.classics.uga.edu for information and links to sites that focus on Roman culture.

Course Outline:

The course will follow a seminar format. Students must read texts prior to each class, attend lectures regularly, and contribute to classroom discussions. Pop quizzes are possible if students do not keep up with readings! Bring texts to each class. Assignments: Mid-term Exam, 2 short papers (5 pages each, double spaced, one inch margins), Final Exam, and Participation grade which is based on attendance (if you are not in class, you are not participating!) and participation. Students who leave after the break will be counted as absent for the entire class. Students who miss more than 4 classes will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Adherence to UGA's Academic Honesty Policy is expected. This course is accessible to students with disabilities. Please see me if special arrangements in seating, reading, or test-taking are needed.

Required Texts:

C. Scarre, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Rome* (Penguin).
Livy, *The Early History of Rome*, transl. de Selincourt (Penguin).
Plautus, *The Rope and Other Plays*, transl. Watling (Penguin).
Catullus, *The Complete Poems*, transl. Guy Lee (Oxford).
Virgil, *The Aeneid*, transl. David West (Penguin).
Petronius, *The Satyricon*, transl. J.P. Sullivan (Penguin).
Seneca, *Four Tragedies and the Octavia*, transl. Watling (Penguin).
Tacitus, *Annals of Imperial Rome*, transl. M. Grant (Penguin).

Grading Scheme:

Participation	10%
Papers	30%
Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Examination	<u>30%</u>
	100%

UGA policy statements:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing any academic work.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Schedule

Aug 17: Introduction.

Reading Assignment: PHA "From City to Empire" pp. 12-19.

Aug 22: Foundation myths of Rome.

Reading Assignment: Livy, Book 1, pp. 33-51 (coin cover) or 29-49 (war cover).

PHA "Origins of Rome" pp. 20-21.

Discussion: How secure is the foundation myth of Rome?

Aug 24: Etruscan Kings and the Foundation of the Republic: Livy Book 1.

Reading Assignment: Livy, Book 1, pp. 52-101 (coin cover) or 50-104 (war cover).

Discussion: To what extent is the fall of the monarchy due to Tarquin's personality in Livy's account?

Aug 29: Middle Republic: Punic Wars and Roman Expansion.

Reading Assignment: H.H. Scullard, From the Gracchi to Nero (London and New York, 1982), 1-21 (photocopy).

PHA "The Wars with Carthage" pp. 24-25.

PHA "Rome's Conquest of the East" pp. 26-27.

Discussion: Did Rome chance upon an empire?

Aug 31: Film: The Punic Wars.

Sep 05: Middle Republic: Comedy: Plautus

Reading Assignment: Amphitryon (read the entire play).

Discussion: How (ir)reverent is the characterization of Jupiter? What makes this play so funny/disturbing?

Sep 07: Middle Republic: Comedy: Plautus.

Reading Assignment: The Ghost (read the entire play).

Discussion: The clever slave in Roman comedy.

Sep 12: Late Republic: Poetry: Catullus.

Reading Assignment: Lesbia poems 1; 2; 3; 5; 7; 8; 36; 51; 58; 70; 72; 75; 76; 79; 83; 85; 86; 87; 107. Iuvenius poems: 15; 21; 24; 48; 81; 99.

Discussion: Fictional elements in Catullus' relationship with Lesbia.

Sep 14: Late Republic: Poetry: Catullus.

Reading Assignment: poems 13; 16; 21; 22; 23; 25; 28; 34; 42; 49; 50; 56; 57; 59; 61; 95; 101; 116.

Writing Assignment #1: Why does Catullus Poem 8 seem autobiographical?

Sep 19: Late Republic: Julius Caesar.

Reading Assignment: PHA "The Over-Mighty Generals" pp. 28-29.

PHA "Caesar's Conquest of Gaul" pp. 30-31.

PHA "Crossing the Rubicon" pp. 32-33.

PHA "The Civil Wars" pp. 34-35.

Discussion: Did Caesar, as Dictator, project himself as a king?

Sep 21: Film: Julius Caesar.

Sep 26: Augustus and the Founding of the Principate/Empire.

Reading Assignment: Scullard, pp. 208-224 (photocopy).

PHA "The Imperial Regime" pp. 38-45.

PHA "The New Order" pp. 46-47.

PHA "The City of Rome Under Augustus" pp. 48-49.

PHA "List of Roman Emperors" p. 136.

Discussion: Octavian/Augustus' rise to power.

Sep 28: Film: The Roman Empire I: Order from Chaos.

Website: pbs.org/empires/romans/about/index.html

Oct 03: Foundation myths of Augustan Rome: Vergil: The Aeneid.

Reading Assignment: Books 1-4.

Discussion: How does Vergil arouse sympathy for the fall of Troy in Book 2?
How responsible is Aeneas for Dido's Death? Does Vergil say?

Oct 05: Foundation myths of Augustan Rome: Vergil: The Aeneid.

Reading Assignment: Books 5-8.

PHA "Shades of the Departed" pp. 36-37.

Discussion: Vergil's description of the Underworld and Aeneas' arrival in Italy.
How does Vergil mythologize the reign of Augustus?

Oct 10: Foundation myths of Augustan Rome: Vergil: The Aeneid.

Reading Assignment: Books 9-12.

Discussion: Does Aeneas display "pietas" (clemency) in his killing of Turnus? Is there an allusion to Augustus' defeat of Mark Antony?

Oct 12: **Mid-term Exam.**

Oct 17: Early Empire: "Neronian literature": Petronius: The Satyricon.

Reading Assignment: "Puteoli" pp. 37-67.

Discussion: What sort of novel is this?

Oct 19: Early Empire: "Neronian literature": Petronius: The Satyricon.

Reading Assignment: "Dinner with Trimalchio" pp. 68-91.

Suetonius, Life of Nero (photocopy).

Discussion: Is the portrayal of Trimalchio a parody or political invective?

Oct 24: Film: The Roman Empire II: Years of Trial.

Reading Assignment: PHA "Claudius and the Conquest of Britain" pp. 50-51.

Discussion: The Julio-Claudians.

Oct 26: Fall Break

Oct 31: Early Empire: "Neronian literature" : Petronius: The Satyricon.

Reading Assignment: "Eumolpus" pp. 92- 125; "The Road to Croton" pp. 126-140; "Croton" pp. 141-160.

PHA "Map of Pompeii" p. 56 (brothels).

Discussion: Is Petronius' world strictly fictitious?

Writing Assignment #2: What elements in Petronius' narrative makes the characterization of Trimalchio so ridiculous?

Nov 02: Film: The Roman Empire III: Winds of Change.

Discussion: Later literary sources, especially Tacitus, condemned the reign of Nero -- how bad/good was he?

Nov 07: Early Empire: Tacitus: Annals.

Reading Assignment: "The Mother of Nero" pp. 252-283.

Discussion: Could Nero have become emperor without Agrippina?

Nov 09: Early Empire: Tacitus: Annals.

Reading Assignment: "Fall of Agrippina" pp. 284-319.

Discussion: Theatrical elements in Tacitus' narrative.

Nov 14: Early Empire: Tacitus: Annals.

Reading Assignment: "Burning of Rome and the Plot" pp. 360-381.

"Innocent Victims" pp. 382-397.

Suetonius, Life of Nero (photocopy).

Nov 16: Early Empire: (Pseudo) Seneca: Octavia.

Reading Assignment: Read the Octavia (entire play).

Discussion: Does the author's characterization of Nero differ markedly from

Tacitus' characterization?

Nov 21: Film: The Roman Empire IV: Years of Eruption.

Reading Assignment: PHA "Nero and the Year of the Four Emperors" pp. 52-53.

Discussion: The Year of the Four Emperors and the Flavians.

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Break.

Nov 28: Early Empire: The Beginning of the age of the Adoptive Emperors:
Nerva/Trajan/Hadrian.

Reading Assignment: PHA "The Imperial Peace" pp. 46-71.

Discussion: What pitfalls of the Julio-Claudians and Flavians did the adoptive emperors learn to avoid?

Nov 30: Early Empire: Pagans and Christians.

Reading Assignment: Pliny, Letters 10.96; 10.97 (photocopy).

Discussion: Christian persecutions.

Dec 05: Thursday Class Schedule: Concluding Lecture

Dec 14: **Final Examination:** 12:00-3:00.