

**ROMAN CULTURE
CLAS 1010
Fall 2009**

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SYLLABUS*

Course Description

This course strives for a general understanding of ancient Roman culture. Because it is a 1000-level introductory course, it will survey a wide range of material. **Students should not interpret its 1000-level designation to mean that the work load is easier than in upper-level classes. The 1000-level designation simply indicates that the course exposes students to a wide range of material rather than to detailed material about a specific subject.** All readings from Latin authors will be in translation, but students will be responsible for some Latin terms.

This is primarily a course on the literature of ancient Rome, and there is a heavy reading load in this class. Students should expect up to 200 pages of reading per week at times. Plan ahead! Students are expected to have reading assignments completed in their entirety BEFORE coming to class. We will focus primarily on literature, although our examination of ancient Roman culture also will include art, archaeology, history, philosophy, and religion. Students will be graded according to the following scale:

A=	94-100
A-=	90-93.99999999
B+=	87-89.99999999
B=	84-86.99999999
B-=	80-83.99999999
C+=	77-79.99999999
C=	74-76.99999999
C-=	70-73.99999999
D=	60-69.99999999
F=	59.9999999 and below

Teaching Philosophy

I believe that the most effective learning occurs when students are active participants in their own education. We cannot possibly cover everything about Roman culture in class, so I expect students to work to educate themselves outside of class. For example, any attempt to understand Roman literature must involve an examination of Roman history, but, because this is a literature class rather than a history class, our discussions will focus on the literary texts we read and how those texts fit into the historical context. I have ordered a concise textbook which covers most of Roman history, and I expect students to read this textbook and digest the historical material on

their own. In other words, we will not focus on the history in class, but students are indeed responsible for knowing basic Roman history.

Expectations

This course assumes college-level skills in reading and writing, and all work will be graded according to both content and presentation. Students who do not feel that they are strong writers are encouraged to take advantage of the English Department's Writing Center in the basement of Park Hall, although students who do visit the Writing Center should explain to their tutor that they are enrolled in a classics course, not an English course. Otherwise, students may be encouraged to document papers according to MLA style, which is used in English but not typically in classics. Students who take freshman English at UGA learn MLA-style documentation, but this is only one of several styles of academic documentation. **MLA-style is not acceptable in this class.** This course uses **Turabian-style documentation.** If you are not familiar with the **Turabian style**, it is your responsibility to become familiar with it. The main library has handouts with basic forms as well as Turabian's book. Copies of the book should be available at most bookstores. In addition to these resources, there are helpful hints for writing papers in classics courses on the Classics Department website and also specific information about Turabian style documentation.

Come to class on time and do not leave class early. **Turn cellphones off!** **Bring the reading material assigned for each class to class with you.** Everything covered in class, including videos, dramatizations, and all readings are fair game for the exams. Students who miss class are responsible for material assigned during that class and for collecting notes, etc. **Do not expect the instructor to provide you with copies of notes or handouts, and certainly do not expect private tutoring sessions after missing class.** If you miss class, it is **your** responsibility to collect copies of materials and copy notes. It is a good idea to get the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of several fellow students in case you have to miss class. This class assumes familiarity with the University's libraries, particularly with the main library. It is assumed, of course, that all students have active student IDs and may legitimately make use of UGA libraries and other University facilities.

Required Texts

1. *A Brief History of the Romans* Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, and Richard A. Talbert. (ISBN-10: 0195187156) "BHR" on schedule
2. *The Aeneid of Virgil* (trans. Mandelbaum) (ISBN: 0520045505)
3. Ovid. *Metamorphoses* (trans. Humphries) (ISBN: 0253200016)
4. Lucretius. *The Nature of Things*. (trans. Copley) (ISBN: 0393090949)
5. Livy. *The Early History of Rome*. (trans. De Selincourt) (ISBN: 0140448098)
6. Suetonius. *The Twelve Caesars*. (trans. Graves) (ISBN: 0140449213)
7. *As the Romans Did* JoAnn Shelton, ed. (ISBN: 019508974X) "ARD" on schedule

Please make every effort to obtain these exact translations.

Study Tools

The instructor urges students to be circumspect about which websites they use for general supplementary material or for researching papers. Not all websites are created equal, and it can be extremely difficult for students to discriminate between a scholarly website and one which is not academic in nature. In general, websites that end in "edu" tend to be scholarly, but in the end even this measure cannot serve as an absolute litmus test.

I have listed the web address for the Department of Classics' website below, which has links to several academic websites which are excellent resources and also a list of useful databases and indices.

Department of Classics Website

<http://classics.uga.edu/overview.html>

Links:

<http://helios.classics.uga.edu/courses/clas1000/links/links.htm>

Our class has a website at the eLearning Commons (eLC). To access the website, simply go to <https://www.elc.uga.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct> and log on with your Uga ID and password. You should see this class in the list of your courses which appears. I will post this syllabus, study guides, power point presentations, readings, grades, and attendance information on this website, so check it frequently.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." [Http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhom.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhom.htm) Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Course Requirements

ALL WRITTEN WORK IS DUE IN HARD COPY. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS VIA E-MAIL.

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, and students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned texts with that day's reading material in hand. Students are allowed 6 absences without penalty, but every missed class after the sixth missed class will result in a one-half letter grade deduction from the final course grade (5 points). The instructor reserves the right to withdraw students who have excessive absences (more than 6) from the course with a grade of "WF." Again, as stated above, students who miss class are responsible for material assigned during that class and for collecting notes, etc. The instructor has done her job by teaching the class at the designated time and is not responsible for accommodating students who miss class. **Do not expect the instructor to provide you with copies of notes or handouts, and certainly do not expect private tutoring sessions after missing class.** Do not expect the instructor to respond to emails which seek information which was given in class or which ask for assignments explained in class. If you miss class, it is **your** responsibility to collect copies of materials and copy

notes. It is a good idea to get the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of several fellow students in case you have to miss class. I suggest you collect these early in the semester.

2. **Midterm Exams:** The two midterms will cover all reading material assigned as well as material presented in class until that point. They will be both objective and subjective, and each will consist of three sections. The first section will require identification and explication of specific passages from the primary texts we read; the second section will require short identification of characters, terms, places, etc.; and the third section will require an essay. Students will need blue books for all exams in this class. There will be no make-ups for the midterm exams. The final exam grade will count an additional 20% for each missed midterm. **40%**

2. **Group Projects:** Students will work in groups of three to research a specific topic on Roman culture and present their findings to the class. Presentations should be about 20 minutes long and should include visual aides such as posters, handouts, or power point slides. Each group should compose a bibliography with at least 15 scholarly books and articles on their subject (no websites) to be posted on the class website shortly after the time of their presentation. Topics and presentation dates will be assigned after Drop/Add. Students will be given the opportunity to rate the other students in their group, so no one should expect to let others do their work for them. **10%**

3. **Writing Projects:** There will be two short writing projects (5-7 pages) during the course of the semester. Topics and instructions will be posted on the eLC website after Drop/Add. **20%**

4. **Final exam:** The final exam will be cumulative and will follow the format of the midterms. It will be slightly longer than the midterm. Blue books will be necessary. Thursday, December 10th, 12:00-3:00. **30%**

Preliminary Schedule

August 17:	Introduction to course
August 19:	Introduction to Roman Geography and Culture
August 21:	Introduction to Roman Geography and Culture
August 24:	Reading: Selections from ancient medical writers (eLC) BHR Chapter 1
August 26:	Reading: BHR Chapters 2 and 3
August 28:	Reading: Lucretius, <i>The Nature of Things</i> , Books 1 and 4

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

