

**HONORS ROMAN CULTURE
CLAS 1010H
Spring 2008**

Instructor: Ms. Christine L. Albright
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PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course strives for a general understanding of ancient Roman culture. Much of the course will be taught seminar-style, but approximately five weeks of the semester will be devoted to a "Reacting to the Past" role-playing game set right after the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C.E. Thus, students are expected to play an especially active role in their own learning and also in running the game.

While we will approach Roman culture with concern for chronology, in general we will approach our subject primarily in terms of the body and its relationship to society. Thus, we will look first at Roman ideas about the human body and then move on to an examination of how those ideas function in the larger spheres of family, civic and political life, and Empire.

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 mostly on literature, although our examination of ancient Roman culture also will include art, archaeology, history, philosophy, and religion.

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 always 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 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.

In general, this course assumes a basic understanding of geography, history and western civilization.

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.** Students who miss class are responsible for material assigned during that class and for collecting notes, etc. **Do not expect me 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. I usually try to put extra copies of handouts in the box outside my office door. 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
8. Augustine. *Confessions*. (trans. Chadwick) (ISBN: 0192833723)
9. *Classics in Translation* Volume II (Editor: Mackendrick) (ISBN: 0299808963) "CIT" on schedule

Please make every effort to obtain these exact editions.

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. There is a link to CLAS 1010 on the Classics Department website, but currently this area is under construction. I will inform the class if this becomes available during the term. There is also a specific guide for writing papers in classics courses and information about helpful websites, bibliographies, and databases. **Remember that material you use from websites must be documented in papers just like material you use from books and articles.**

Department of Classics Website

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

Links:

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

AGAIN: BEWARE OF WEBSITES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS WEBSITE. STUDENTS WHO USE MATERIAL FROM OTHER WEBSITES TEND TO SCORE BELOW STUDENTS WHO USE MATERIAL FROM THESE RECOMMENDED WEBSITES. IN GENERAL, THE INSTRUCTOR RECOMMENDS THAT STUDENTS RELY ON BOOKS AND ARTICLES RATHER THAN ON THE INTERNET FOR RESEARCH.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected, of course, to adhere to the University's policy on academic honesty. This policy is available on the University's website

http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing 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. 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=	59.99999999 and below

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. The instructor reserves the right to withdraw students who have excessive absences (more than 4) 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. **Writing Projects:** Students will write 3 essays (5-7 pages each) during the course of the semester. Topics and instructions will be handed out a few weeks before each due date. **60%**
3. **Class participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared (having read and digested the material for that day) and to participate fully in class discussions and activities. Students are also expected to prepare fully for the game sessions in general, and students are expected to prepare and post speeches formally before each session. **20%**
4. **Oral Presentation:** Students will present research on a specific topic to the class in a 15-20 minute talk (please make sure presentations are no longer than 20 minutes). Topics and dates will be offered early in the semester. **20%**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE*

I will hand out a more detailed schedule after the Drop/Add period

Week One: Introduction and Overview of Roman History, Geography, Culture

Week Two: Selections from ancient medical writers (handout).
Livy. *History of Early Rome* Books 1-2

Week Three: Lucretius. *The Nature of Things*.

Week Four: Selections from Sallust
Selections from Catullus

Week Five: Selections from Cicero, Quintilian
Paper One Due

Week Six: Game

Week Seven: Game

Week Eight: Game
Paper Two Due

Week Nine: Game

Week Ten: Game

Week Eleven: Vergil. *Aeneid*. Books 1-6

Week Twelve: Vergil. *Aeneid*. Books 7-12

Week Thirteen: Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Books 1-4, 6, 8, 13-15

Week Fourteen: Suetonius. *The Twelve Caesars*
(Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, Nero)

Week Fifteen: St. Augustine. *Confessions*
Paper Three Due

***The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as necessary.**

