

Introduction to Roman History

I. What is this course about?

This course is designed for students with little or no previous study of Roman civilization or history in general. We will examine over one thousand years of Roman history, from the city’s prehistoric foundations to the Empire of the fourth century AD. The point of this course is not simply to memorize lists of names and dates; rather, we will pay close attention to methodological problems in the study of history, ancient and modern. We will consider a variety of primary sources (in translation) that contribute to our understanding of the Roman world, while discussing the issues that historians face in reconstructing models of the past.

II. Course objectives – what will you learn?

At the end of this course, you will be able:

- to describe the most important political, social, and cultural events and developments at Rome from the eighth century BC to the early third century AD
- to identify and interpret ancient primary sources in a variety of media (inscriptions, literature, coins, calendars, art, architecture, etc.) at an elementary level, applying them critically to the study of ancient civilizations
- to identify and critically analyze how primary and secondary sources are influenced by the ideas, conventions, and agendas of their original contexts
- to formulate and respond to questions of particular historiographical interest
- to apply basic historiographical methods to the study of ancient and modern material

III. Grading

Attendance, Participation, Journal	10%
Midterm Test	25%
Essay (proposal 5%, final essay 25%)	30%
Final exam (date TBA)	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

IV. Assignments and evaluation

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in every class, beginning in Week 2. Please be sure to alert the instructor as soon as possible if you need be excused for a past or future absence due to a medical or family emergency or religious observance. You are required to declare your absence on ROSI to receive accommodation for work that you miss or turn in late, and you should also provide the instructor with additional documentation for your case within one week of the absence, if necessary. You are responsible for catching up on material missed during your absence, and will need to ask fellow students to share lecture notes with you.

Class participation: During discussion times, you are encouraged and expected to participate actively in the classroom. Participation marks will be based on: attendance, timeliness,

preparation (bringing textbooks to class, assignments completed, etc.), and readiness to respond when called upon.

Weekly readings: Your weekly readings should be completed before the class period in which they are discussed. Allot two hours of reading and revision for every one hour of class time.

Journal Assignments: In Weeks 2–5 and 7–12 you will write a one-page journal entry summarizing and analyzing the material covered in Thursday’s lecture, which you will submit to Turnitin.com (see below for more information). There will be a total of ten such entries. Your journals may appear in a variety of formats (notes in bullet or outline form, paragraphs, a series of questions and answers, etc.), and can be used to help you review for the midterm and final exam. Journal entries are due by 11:59 pm on the Wednesday before the next class.

Midterm Test: There will be one in-class midterm test on February 9 covering all material in the lectures and assigned readings up until that date. The midterm is worth 25% of your final grade for the class. One week prior to the test, you will be given a practice test to assist you in studying and preparing for the graded exam. Your midterm will be marked and returned to you by February 16, in advance of March 4, the last day to drop Spring courses without academic penalty.

Midterm essay: Your midterm essay assignment is composed of two portions: an initial proposal, worth 5% of your final grade, and the final essay, worth 25% of your final grade. Both the proposal and the final essay will be submitted through Turnitin.com, but you will also bring a hardcopy of the essay to class. Further information about the essay will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard later in the term.

Final examination: The final exam will held between April 9 and 23 at a date to be announced. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all material in the lectures and assigned readings throughout the course. During the last week of classes, you will be given a practice test to assist you in studying and preparing for the graded exam. The final is worth 35% of your final grade for the class.

V. Policies for absences and late work

Late assignments: Journal assignments turned in late cannot be accepted or graded. The essay may be turned in late to Turnitin.com with the deduction of one full letter grade for every twenty-four hour period past the initial deadline, unless documentation is provided within one week to excuse the late assignment.

Missed assignments and tests: Journal assignments may be excused (but not handed in late) only in cases of medical or personal emergencies, or for religious obligations. The weight of the missed journal assignment will be added to the weight of the next on the schedule. In all cases, proper documentation needs to be provided within one week in order for the instructor to excuse the absence. If you miss a test for an excused absence, you will be able to take a make-up written or oral exam.

VI. Textbooks

Required Texts

A History of the Roman People, 5th ed., by Allen M. Ward, Fritz M. Heichelheim, and Cedric A. Yeo. 5th ed. Toronto: Pearson, 2010. ISBN: 9780205695263 (= **Ward** on course schedule)

Livy: The Rise of Rome, trans. by T.J. Luce. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780199540044 (= **Livy** on course schedule)

Tacitus: the Annals, trans. by J.C. Yardley. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780192824219 (= **Tacitus** on course schedule)

Recommended Text

As the Romans Did, 2nd ed., by Jo-Ann Shelton. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998. ISBN: 9780195089745

Everyone is expected to purchase personal copies of the three required textbooks at the University of Toronto Mississauga Bookstore.

VII. Important information

Lectures: Much of the material presented in lectures will *not* be found in your textbooks, so please make every effort to attend each class. The instructor will post the slides used in lectures before class each week so that you can print them out and use them for taking notes. If you miss a lecture, be sure to ask to look at someone else's notes, since the slides alone will not be able to convey all the information presented by the instructor.

Course website: The course website is found on Blackboard, which may be accessed via the U of T Portal login page (portal.utoronto.ca). (If you have not used your UTORid before, see utorid.utoronto.ca for information on activation and setting your password.) Login with your UTORid and password and look for this course under the **My Courses** box on the right. Please check the website on a regular basis for important announcements and supplementary materials.

Course email: You must use your university email address for correspondence in this course; the instructor is unable to respond to emails sent from other addresses. (Please be aware that if your U of T email is forwarded to another account, some messages from the instructor may be filtered out as spam or junk.) Please be sure to include your full name and the course title in your email message. The instructor will aim to reply to emails within forty-eight hours on weekdays, but this may not always be possible.

Turnitin.com: Since integrity is essential for the academic community to which we all belong, we are using an electronic submission system to help you avoid plagiarism. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. If you strongly desire to

opt out of this system on principle, we can discuss other arrangements. To submit your work, log into Turnitin.com using the ID and password at the top of page one of this syllabus.

Meetings: Everyone is very welcome to meet with the instructor during office hours or contact her through email to discuss any questions or concerns. If you are encountering difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor for assistance. The instructor is unable to give private tutorials to individuals.

In the classroom: You are expected to participate in maintaining a respectful, supportive classroom atmosphere. Any cell phones and other noise-making electronic devices must be turned off during class. Texting and web surfing distract other students and will result in a reduction of your participation mark.

Academic Skills Centre: All UTM students are able to use the resources of the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre for help with reading and study skills, time management, essay writing, etc. For more information on individual appointments, writing workshops, and peer-facilitated study groups, visit <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/>.

AccessAbility Resource Centre: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me or contact the AccessAbility Resource Centre, which is located in room 2047, South Building. You can reach AccessAbility staff at 905-569-4699 or by e-mail at access.utm@utoronto.ca. For more information, visit <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/access/>.

Important dates:

Spring term: January 2–April 23

No class: Feb. 20–24 (Reading Week)

Last day to drop Spring courses without academic penalty: March 4

Exam period: April 9–23

Final exam: TBA

VIII. Schedule

Week	Thursday	Topics	Reading Assignment (to be completed <i>before</i> class)	Items Due/Notes
1	Jan. 5	Course outline Approaches to the study of ancient history Pre-Roman Italy Material sources	Ward Ch. 1–2 (pp. 1–26)	
2	Jan. 12	Early Rome to 500 BC Early Republic	Ward Ch. 3 (pp. 27– 38) and Ch. 5–6 (55– 87)	Journal 1 Please bring your copy

		(5th–3rd centuries BC) Livy History, mythology, and folklore	Livy Preface (pp. 3–4), Book 1 (pp. 5–70), Book 3.25–3.29 (pp. 166–171)	of Livy to class.
3	Jan. 19	1st, 2nd, and 3rd Punic Wars Rome and Greece (267–133 BC) Fragmentary sources Constructing timelines	Ward Ch. 7–10 (pp. 88–140) Livy Book 5.32–5.55 (pp. 316–341)	Journal 2 Please bring your copy of Livy to class.
4	Jan. 26	Late Republic to Julius Caesar (133–44 BC) End of the Republic (44–30 BC) Coins and inscriptions	Ward Ch. 12–16 (pp. 152–214)	Journal 3 Midterm essay questions posted online
5	Feb. 2	Augustus and the Early Principate (29 BC–AD 14) Literary sources	Ward Ch. 18–21 (pp. 229–291) Tacitus 1.1–1.10 (pp. 3–10)	Journal 4 Please bring your copy of Tacitus to class.
6	Feb. 9	Midterm Writing a research essay Asking historical questions		Midterm test in first hour of class
7	Feb. 16	Julio-Claudians (Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero)	Ward Ch. 22–23 (pp. 292–314)	Journal 5 Please bring your copy

		(AD 14–68) Tacitus	Tacitus 12.68–15.74 (pp. 268–376)	of Tacitus to class.
	Feb. 20–24	Reading Week	No Class	Midterm essay proposal due online at 11:59 pm Monday, February 20
8	March 1	Flavians and Five “Good” Emperors (AD 69–180) Letters	Ward Ch. 24–25 (pp. 315–340) Pliny the Younger to Tacitus: Letters 4.16, 4.20 (will be posted on Blackboard)	Journal 6
	March 4	Last day to drop an S course from academic record and GPA		
9	March 8	Imperial Culture Commodus and the Severans (AD 180–235)	Ward Ch. 26–27 (pp. 365–379)	Journal 7
9	March 8	Biography <i>cont.</i>		Midterm essay due online at 11:59 pm Wednesday, March 7; hardcopy due at the beginning of class on March 8
10	March 15	Third-century Anarchy (AD 235–285) Diocletian (AD 285–305) Sources for legal, economic, and military history	Ward Ch. 28–30 (pp. 380–417)	Journal 8

11	March 22	Constantine and Christianity (AD 306–337) Art and architecture	Ward Ch. 31 (pp. 418–429)	Journal 9 Guest lecturer: Dr. Cillian O’Hogan
12	March 29	Late Antiquity (AD 337–395) Manuscript transmission Review	Ward Ch. 32–34 (pp. 430–470)	Journal 10
	April 9–23	Exam Period	Date of Final Exam TBA	