

## Basic Information for GNHU/HIST 282 Roman Civilization Fall 2007

Time/Place        Tuesday 02:30-05:00 DICKSON HALL 276  
 Instructor        Jean Alvares  
 Telephone        973-655-5292      Email [alvaresj@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:alvaresj@mail.montclair.edu)  
 Office             DI-103 (enter through DI 104)  
 Office Hours     1:00-2:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

Texts              Boatwright, Gargola and Talbert, *A Brief History of the Romans*. Oxford 2006.  
 K. J. Atchity: (ed.) *The Classical Roman Reader*. Oxford 1997

Grade Components	Homework,papers and in-class work	30 %	Diagnostic	5%
	Midterm	29%	Final	36 %

Grade	100-93	A	86-83	B	72-70	C-	62-60	D-
Scale	92-90	A-	82-80	B-	69-67	D	59-0	F
	89-87	B+	79-77	C+	66-63	D		

### MORE INFORMATION AND MATTERS OF POLICY

**OBJECTIVES:** Roman Civilization is a huge topic, which, to even adequately skim its surface, would take several semesters — one for the history, one for the literature, one for the culture, one for the art, etc. Obviously this is not possible. Thus our goal will be to present a very general overview of Roman Civilization. We shall concentrate primarily on the history, the literature and the art and architecture, and as we do so we shall build up our understanding of overall Roman civilization.

Or perhaps I should have said ‘Roman civilizations’. When I took Roman History in graduate school, there was a tendency to concentrate on a rather narrow period, say from the Gracchi of the later Roman Republic to Nero, the last Julio-Claudian emperor, roughly from 133 B.C. E to 69 C. E. Such a selection not only ignores the earlier period in which Rome became an international empire, but also the long stretch of later antiquity which saw the rise and establishment of Christianity and set up the basis for Medieval (and hence modern) Western Europe. We shall observe how these very different Roman civilizations developed and transformed from one to another, considering for example, how the triumphant archaic Roman Republic became the unstable and violent Late Republic. We’ll also look at those ideals, philosophies and works of art that both deeply influenced the Romans and made an enormous impact on later Western Civilization.

**COMPONENTS OF COURSE GRADE:** Homework will be due for each class. Starting next week homework will not be handed out in class, but will be posted to the Assignments section of your course’s Blackboard page. The questions on the midterm and final will in large part be based on these questions. There will be three short papers (2-5 pages) each of which will count the equivalent of three homeworks each. There will be art and archaeology on-line lectures and homeworks which will be found within **assignments section** on Blackboard. Today I intend to set it up so that all of you who are signed up for HIST 282 can log into the GNHU 282 Blackboard page. **THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE BLACKBOARD SITE FOR THIS COURSE. Please check out the Blackboard page as soon as possible!** Exercises on topics on Roman art and architecture will be presented through online lectures and series of exercises via Blackboard. These exercises will have to be completed by a definite date, and each will count as much as one homework. There will also be, at the end of each class, a short in-class assignment which will count as 1/2 a homework. No assignment grades will be dropped, but there will be extra credit available, so that it will be possible to get over 100% on this segment of your grade. Lectures sponsored by our Department will provide an easy opportunity for extra credit. You can see the schedule of our AIA lectures at <http://chss2.montclair.edu/germans/AIA/AIAMEET.HTML>. There will be other sorts of lectures as well.

**BLACKBOARD, HOMEWORK AND MSU EMAIL.** A large fraction of you have already used the Blackboard course management system. As noted above, to save paper and time, I shall require all students, after this week, to download the homework from our Blackboard site. **IF YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO USE BLACKBOARD AND HAVE TROUBLE FINDING OUT HOW, CONTACT ME!** Also, now the registrar at MSU requires students to maintain an MSU email account. For the purposes of this course **you are required** to maintain and communicate using the MSU account. If you use other types of email, such as hotmail, you can set it up so that MSU forwards your email to these accounts. **BUT YOU MUST USE MSU EMAIL!** As an additional plus, this will make it much more easy for me to mail all of you as a group to give late-minute updates.

**ABSENCES.** Because there is a close correlation between class attendance and performance, the student is expected to come to class. Being present means **being on time** for class. Since we meet only once a week, to miss a class means missing the equivalent of a week of class, not to mention the lecture and in-class assignments. Also, if by some chance you are too ill to take a test, you must (**I mean must**) see a doctor or some sort of medical specialist to confirm this condition. Also, you must tell me about the absence and schedule a make up within two days. You **must** leave a message with me, either at my office (655-5292) or with the Classics secretary at 973-655-4419. **Do not come to me days after such an absence and automatically expect me to allow a make up for a test.**

**TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY.** The general rule is that a student should spend around two hours studying for each hour of class time. Since we will meet three hours each day, you should allot yourself at the minimum **SIX HOURS OF STUDY A DAY!!!** There will be quite a bit of reading as well — students should be prepared to read 75-120 pages for each class period.

**FACING UP TO LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.** Face it, college life is often tough, and even the brightest students have problems. And the compressed nature of this course can compound problems. The essential point to remember is **IF YOU ARE HAVING A PROBLEM, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.** Meeting with me during office hours or during a special appointment, obtaining help from your peers are possibilities. Do not sit still and assume you will figure out the problem by yourself. Remember, we often are the last ones to know just what our problems really are and what to do about them.

**OFFICE HOURS:** My office hours are listed above, although they may change in the course of the semester. I am more than willing to make special appointments. Further, I tend to spend a lot of time around the department and in my office, and I do not mind drop-ins. If I am too busy, I will gladly arrange another time. Do not hesitate to send e-mail to me **BUT USE YOUR MONTCLAIR EMAIL ACCOUNT!!!**

**Classroom Etiquette.** Please when you come to class, turn off all cell phones, Ipods, radios, pagers, and all other devices which might distract your professor and fellow students. Also, please do not bring snacks or dinner to be eaten in class. Again, this is very distracting for most students.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** in any and all of its forms will not be tolerated. If caught cheating, the best that can happen to you is that you will fail the course.

## Tentative Schedule of Class Meetings and Topics

During the semester, there will be interruptions, digressions, etc. and I probably will fall behind the schedule, and thus **THE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS BELOW IS PROVISIONAL!! IT MAY CHANGE,** although the **dates for the tests are utterly fixed.** This schedule tells you what we shall discuss on a given day and what you will be responsible for on that day. But this is an **ideal** schedule, subject to modification. If I fall behind, you can tell what I will do next by the order of topics and readings on the schedule below. Also, as time dictates, I may have to drop certain readings or topics. I shall take care to inform you of this. **But it is the student's responsibility to make sure**

**what will be covered in class.** If you are absent, you should call or e-mail me to find out what will be covered during the next class period. There will be a copy of the syllabus on the **course page**.

R = <i>A Brief History of the Romans</i> .	CRR = <i>The Classical Roman Reader</i>
Handouts will either be posted on website for downloading or passed out in class.	

Sept 11	<b>Orientation of Class.</b> What are we going to do and how. Question: What is History? Lecture on the composition of prehistoric Italy and legends of early Rome and its founding, the Kings of Rome, the expulsion of the Kings.
Sept 18	The Roman Gods and Roman religion. The History of Rome through the struggle of the Orders. The early Roman constitution and laws, the first phase of Rome's expansion. We shall also consider the basic Roman Gods, Roman Religion and the Roman Family. <b>Have Read for Class R 1-77</b>
Sept 25	From the Struggle of the Orders to the end of the Punic Wars. Rome's Domination of the Mediterranean. The Social and Political Life of the early and Middle Republic. Early Roman literature. Lecture on the Roman Constitution. <b>Have Read for Class R 1-77 Plautus (CRR 3-16); Terence (CRR 25-35); TURN IN DIAGNOSTIC TEST!</b>
Oct 2	From the Gracchi to Sulla. More Roman literature. <b>Have Read for Class R 77-118. Ennius (CRR 17-18); Lucilius (CRR 35-37).</b>
Oct 9	From Sulla to the Death of Julius Caesar: Mostly history <b>Have Read for Class R 118-166.</b>
Oct 16	From Sulla to the Death of Julius Caesar. Mostly literature. <b>Have Read for Class Sallust (Selection from <i>Jugurtha</i> [handout], CRR 94-99), Cicero (CRR 47-59). Cato (CRR 19-24); Varro (CRR 38-43); Lucretius (CRR 82-87).</b>
Oct 23	<b>Catch up, Review and Take Midterm</b>
Oct 30	From the Death of Julius Caesar through the Augustus History, Politics, Literature, <b>Have Read for Class R 167-200. Caesar (CRR 59-71), Catullus (CRR 88-92, perhaps handout). <i>Res Gestae</i> (CRR 153-162); Horace (CRR 119-133);</b>
Nov. 6	Age of Augustus – the <i>Aeneid</i> The <i>Aeneid</i> of Vergil (CRR100-118, handout).
Nov 12	Age of Augustus and Julio-Claudians <b>Have Read for Class R 200-211 Propertius &amp; Sulpicia (CRR 74-81); Ovid (CRR 169-178, perhaps handout). Petronius (CRR 267-276); Lucan (CRR 219-228).</b>
Nov 20	The Year of the Four Emperors through Trajan. Culture and Literature <b>Have Read for Class. R 211-235; Writers of the High Empire; More Rhetoric: Seneca the Elder (CRR 148-153); Quintilian (CRR 268-211); Fronto (CRR 298-301); Science: Pliny (CRR 191-200); Juvenal (CRR 251-266); Martial (CRR 229-231).</b>
Nov 27	From Hadrian through the Severan Emperors; History, culture and literature. <b>Have Read for Class R 235-273; Marcus Aurelius (CRR 314-319) Apuleius CRR 320-327</b>
Dec 4	The Barracks Room emperors to the end of the Western Empire and the Early Christian world. <b>Have Read for Class R 273-297 Letter of Pliny (CRR 249-251) Handout on Later Roman history, and Early Christianity. Claudian (CRR 339-344)</b>
Dec 11	Catch up period, Lecture on the Art of the Late Empire. Review
Dec 14	Final Exam, 1 – 3 PM in this Room