

Montclair State University
Dept. of Classics & General Humanities/Dept. of History

Roman Civilization, Spring 2008 – Course Information

GNHU/HIST 282-04:

Mon 11:30-12:45 Speech Bldg. 131, Wed 11:30-12:45 in Speech Bldg. 130.

Professor Timothy Renner (office: Dickson 102; phone: 973-655-7420; office hours: Mon Wed 10:30-11:15 and 1:30-2:30, and by appointment; email: rennert@mail.montclair.edu)

I. GENERAL

This course introduces the history of the Roman world from the period of Rome's traditional kings, in the eighth century B.C.E., to the time of Constantine in the later Imperial age of the fourth century C.E. We will concentrate most heavily on the Roman Republic and on earlier Imperial times. While much of what we read and see today represents how relatively elite Romans lived and behaved, in this course we will also attempt to understand as much as we can about humbler ancient people and about the nature of their society as a whole. You should come away from the course with a good general understanding of Roman history and civilization that allows you to read more on your own, to make comparisons with other cultures with which you are familiar, or to knowledgeably take more advanced ancient history and culture courses.

The textbook by Boatwright, Gargola, and Talbert provides a basic historical framework and is especially strong on Roman politics, conquest, and the political and cultural consequences thereof. However, we also must pay considerable attention to archaeological evidence, including art and architecture, and to the primary texts—from famous authors such as Vergil to the documents of everyday life—that provide much information about events and attitudes in ancient Rome. Via readings in Atchity's sourcebook and via additional primary materials in "Handout" form (see below), we will explore a number of these texts together with the problems of understanding and interpretation that are associated with them. Segments of many class sessions will be devoted to considering primary written and visual information.

II. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course requires

Daily homework assignments ¹ plus ten-minute quiz (13 Feb)	20%
Midterm Exam (12 March)	20%
Final Exam (12 May, 1-3 P.M.)	20%
Two formal essays (due 27 Feb. and 7 April)	40%

¹ Homework assignments will be due on most regular class meeting days. Assignments will be given out in paper form at the previous class, where possible, and will be posted on Blackboard under "Assignments" by 9 P.M. the evening of the previous class day. On the day they are due, assignments must be handed in by 11:45 A.M.

Daily homework assignments are designed to encourage you to keep up with the reading (both secondary and primary) as well as to contemplate important points within it. At the end of the semester, your best 20 homework grades will be taken into consideration.

The two formal essays revolve around the analysis and comparison of primary texts in Atchity and in Handout form. There will also be possibilities for extra-credit work, including writing reports on talks by visiting AIA lecturers.

III. COURSE MATERIALS

Boatwright = Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, Richard J.A. Talbert, *A Brief History of the Romans*. Oxford University Press paperback, 2006. ISBN 0195187156.

Atchity = Kenneth J. Atchity, *The Classical Roman Reader*. Oxford University Press paperback, 1997. ISBN

Handout = Separate sheets containing additional primary texts or other materials. It should be possible for paper copies of these to be handed out in class most of the time; however, they will also be posted on the course Blackboard site under "Course Documents."

The calendar of assignments may need to be updated from time to time. Changes will be posted to the copy in the "Course Information" section of the course's Blackboard site.

IV. CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

January

23 We Introduction to course. Overview of historical periods and the early cultures of Italy. *See Atchity, pp. 137-144 (Livy, Book I, beginning); p. 100-101 (introduction to Vergil).*

28 Mo Peoples and cultures of early Italy.
Read: Boatwright pp. 1-14.

30 We The Roman historical tradition, archaeological evidence, and the Regal Period.
Read: Boatwright pp. 15-25; Atchity pp. 137-144 (Livy Book I: Preface, the Trojan settlers, and Romulus).

February

4 Mo Rome and Latium during the 400's.
Read: Boatwright pp. 25-31 on the early Republic; Handout: Excerpts from the Twelve Tables.

6 We Roman government.
Read: Boatwright pp. 32-44; Handout: Excerpt from Polybius, History, Book 6 concerning the elements of Republican government; cf. chart of Roman government.

11 Mo The Roman conquest of Italy.
Read: Boatwright pp. 44-53.

- 13 We Ten-minute Quiz. Traditional Roman religion.
In class we will look at some or all of these Handout passages: a “religion” section of Cato the Elder’s treatise On Farm Management as well as excerpts on the Lupercalia from Plutarch’s Life of Romulus, on the Vestal Virgins from Dionysius of Halicarnassus’ Roman Antiquities, and on a later, Christian view of Roman polytheism as seen in Augustine’s City of God. You should also bring Atchity to class.
- 18 Mo Rome, Italy, and Empire: Cultural aspects.
Read: Atchity pp. 3-5 (introductory comments on Plautus’ The Rope); 25-35 (introduction and scenes from Terence, The Brothers); 35-37 (epigrams by Lucilius).
- 20 We The wars with Carthage and the creation of Rome’s Mediterranean empire.
Read: Boatwright pp. 54-67.
- [21 Th, 5pm, Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall: AIA lecture by Alan Shapiro (Dept. of Classics, Johns Hopkins University), “The Athenian Akropolis: A Vase-Painter’s Perspective.”_]
- 25 Mo The wars with Carthage and the creation of Rome’s Mediterranean empire.
Read: Boatwright pp. 67-77.
- 27 We Rome, Italy, and Empire: Political, social, and economic aspects,
Read: Boatwright pp. 78-98; Atchity pp. 19-25 (excerpt from Cato the Elder, On Farm Management).
Essay I due.
- March
- 3 Mo Conflict and competition in the last generations of the Republic.
Read: Boatwright pp. 99-112 (Jugurtha through the Social War).
- 5 We Conflict and competition in the last generations of the Republic.
Read: Boatwright pp. 112-125 (Sulpicius Rufus through Sertorius); Atchity pp. 93, 97-99 (introduction to Sallust and Sallust’s version of the “Speech of Philippus in the Senate”).
- 10 Mo Conflict and competition in the last generations of the Republic.
Read: Boatwright pp. 125-141 (Spartacus through Catiline); Atchity pp. 284-288 (Suetonius, Life of Julius Caesar, up to “The Civil War”).
- 12 We **Midterm Examination**
- SPRING BREAK
- 24 Mo Conflict and competition in the last generations of the Republic. Review.
Read: Atchity pp. 47-57 (introduction to Cicero and First Speech Against Catiline)
- [25 Th, 5pm, Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall: AIA lecture by Ellen Belcher (Dept. of Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University), “Death and Life in Anatolia: The Prehistoric Settlement of Domuztepe.”_]__

- 26 We Triumvirs and factions.
Read: Boatwright pp. 142-155 (through "Prospect of Civil War"); Atchity pp. 59-71 (introduction to Caesar; selection from Book I of Caesar, The Gallic War).
- 31 Mo Poets in the age of the triumvirs.
Read: Atchity pp. 82-93 (introductions to and selections from Lucretius and Catullus).
- April
- 2 We Civil war and Caesar.
Read: Boatwright pp. 155-166; Atchity pp. 288-292 (remaining excerpts from Suetonius' Life of Julius Caesar).
- 7 Mo The rise of a new order.
Read: Boatwright pp. 167-179; Atchity p. 190 (excerpt from Valerius Maximus, Noteworthy Words and Deeds).
Essay II due.
- 9 We The age of Augustus.
Read: Boatwright pp. 180-200.
- 14 Mo The age of Augustus. **J-Cs**
Read: Atchity pp. 153-162 (introduction and partial text of Augustus' Acts [Res Gestae]).
- [15 Tu, 5pm, Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall: AIA lecture by Paula Kay Lazrus (Dept. of History, St. John's University), "Power and Land-use in a South Calabrian Municipality during the Napoleonic Era." _]
- 16 We Augustan visions of Rome. **Philosophy, cosmology, science (sulp., plin., lucr., tac.)**
Read: Atchity pp. 79-81 (excerpts from lyrics of Sulpicia), 100-119 (introduction to Vergil [review]; Book VI of the Aeneid).
- 21 Mo Imperial system established: The Julio-Claudian dynasty. **Ch. 11 (69-138)**
Read: Boatwright pp. 201-213; Atchity pp. 276-284 (introduction to Tacitus and excerpt from Annals, Book I on the mutiny of the Pannonian Legions).
- 23 We Roman culture and society in the early Principate. **Ch. 12 Italy & Provs. Pp. 247-272**
Read: Boatwright pp. 213-221; Atchity pp. 191-200 (excerpt from Pliny the Elder, Natural History, Book II)
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- 28 Mo Flavians and their successors. **Soranus Paul Gaius?**
Read: Boatwright pp. 353-379 ("Sources" on 69-138 C.E. through "Hadrian")
- 30 W Roman culture and society in the late first and second centuries **Ch. 13 (iii-iv cents.)**
Read: Boatwright pp. 379-392; Atchity pp. 229-231 (Martial, Epigrams introduction and selections); 242-251 (introduction to Pliny the Younger and selections from his Letters); 320, 325-327 (introduction to Apuleius and "The Tale of the Jealous Wife")
- May
- 5 Mo *Aspects of Roman imperial culture. Review and preparation for final exam. Rev. Concl.*

Read: Boatwright pp. 416-430 (sections on Roman Law, Roman Citizenship, Rome and Christianity).

12 Mo, 1-3 P.M. **Final Examination**