Course Description

The World of Classical Rome explores the historical development of the Roman people, via a study of their history, politics, and society during the last century of the Roman Republic and the reign of Augustus, the first Roman emperors.

During the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, the Romans conquered almost the entire Mediterranean world. The wealth of the Roman empire produced the public baths, gardens, libraries, circuses, theatres and amphitheatres whose ruins have fascinated the world ever since. An elaborate network of roads and aqueducts all led to the Eternal City. This was the period which saw the creation of many of the greatest works of ancient art and literature.

Yet this was also an age of corruption, violence, political conflict, civil war, and intrigue. While Rome conquered the world outside Italy, its political system came under increasing strain and eventually collapsed into seemingly endless civil wars. Stability was finally restored by Augustus, who replaced republican rule with monarchy – but at what price?

This course seeks to show how the period concerned was indeed a time of chaos, but also of political and cultural creativity. Literary sources, archaeology, and epigraphy, are combined to show how classical Roman civilization took shape, was modified, but at the same time was carried further by Augustus and his successors.

Throughout the course, some of the major issues in the study of the city of Rome and the wider Roman world in this transitional period are examined closely. Primary sources and secondary literature from a variety of disciplinary perspectives reveal the drama of the history, society, and culture of Classical Rome and its empire. This course focuses on evaluating the theories, research findings, and analyses which seek to explain one of the most turbulent but creative periods of world history.

Learning Outcomes

This course is a survey of Roman history from the mid 2nd century BC to the early 1st century AD. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the events, institutions, trends, significant political, cultural and social accomplishments of the age, and of its major figures.
- Show awareness of the problems and debates concerning key themes from this period of history.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the working of historical mechanisms. They need to be able to scrutinize, evaluate and critically analyze the available source material, and be sensitive to the problems of interpreting evidence.
### Required Text / Materials
- Christopher S. Mackay, *The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire* (Cambridge University Press).
- Reader

### Attendance Policy
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy:

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

### Evaluation
Final grade assessments will be based on the combination of two exams, one mid-term and one final, and one large essay concerning a topic of **free choice** and based on primary sources and secondary literature. A small percentage of each student’s grade will be derived from attendance and participation.

- Participation: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Paper: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

The two exams will test your knowledge and understanding of material in the textbook (Christopher S. Mackay, *The Breakdown of the Roman Republic*), the topics dealt with in the lectures and seminars, and the additional literature prescribed for each class. The textbook provides a general outline of the developments of Roman history, society and culture in the period.

### Grading
94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Written work and examinations meriting the grade of “A” (excellent) must:
• address the assigned question or topic directly and intelligently;
• demonstrate a careful and considered reading of the texts at hand;
• present a lucid thesis and a reasoned argument in its defense;
• use correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction;
• make appropriate use of quotations from the texts;
• reveal thoughtfulness, originality and insight.

Written work and examinations awarded the grade of “B” (good) adequately fulfil a majority of these criteria, with areas of improvement indicated by grading remarks and comments.

The grade of “C” (average) is given when written work and examinations fail to meet most criteria, therefore indicating to the student that an appointment should be made with the professor, before the next assignment, to discuss methods for improvement.

Finally, the grade of “D” is assigned to written work and examinations that are unacceptable, according to the criteria outlined above, in which case an appointment must be made with the professor and arrangements determined for re-submitting the assignments in an acceptable form.

**The Essay**

Students are free to choose their own essay topic (within the general subject matter of the course), in consultation with the instructor. All essay topics must be approved by the instructor, and students must produce a rough draft of their essay for review before final submission of the essay.

Students are expected to base their essay on suitable reading, consisting of relevant primary sources and appropriate modern scholarly literature (books, journal articles, and scholarly reference works, whether in printed or online form). They must show that they have made a reasonable effort to read and engage with any reading for their essay suggested by the instructor.

This semester’s timetable is as follows: deadline for essay proposals, Thursday 16 March (Wk 8); deadline for submission of draft, Thursday 6 April (Wk 11); final submission deadline, Thursday 20 April (Wk 13).

*Essays submitted after the final deadline will be penalized by a grade.*

Essays have a word-limit of 3,000 words, including footnotes/endnotes.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism according to the LUC Student Handbook.

**Disabilities**

Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact the instructor during the first week of class, as well as the Senior Academic Services Advisor.
Course Program

Week 1: The Rise of Rome

- Christopher S. Mackay, The Breakdown of the Roman Republic, 10-30, 405-412
- Mary Beard and Michael Crawford, Rome in the Late Republic, 2nd ed. (London 1999), 40-59.

Week 2: The Gracchi

- Mackay, Breakdown, 30-83.
- Stephen L. Dyson, Community and Society in Roman Italy (Baltimore/London, 1992), 23-55.

Week 3: Gaius Marius and Popular Politics

- Mackay, Breakdown, 84-133

Week 4: Sulla and the Reaction

- Mackay, Breakdown, 134-195.

Week 5: Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and the return of popular politics

- Mackay, Breakdown, 196-228.

Week 6: Cicero

- Mackay, Breakdown, 229-237.

**Week 7: The Roman Republic: Democracy *alla Romana?***


**Week 8: Caesar***


**Week 9: From the Ides of March to Actium***


**Week 10: Augustus: Politics and Constitution, Expansion and Succession***


**Week 11: Augustus: Art and Patronage, Morality and Ideology***

Week 12: Augustus: *Res Gestae*