HI ST 308 / RoSt 308
The History of Rome, to Constantine the Great
Loyola University Chicago, John Felice Rome Center
Spring Semester 2020
Tuesdays & Thursdays | 3:45-5:00pm
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Email: aevers@luc.edu
Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 02:30-03:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description

*Roma Aeterna*, the Eternal City, *umbilicus mundi*, the navel of the world... The most glorious city once began as a small settlement along the banks of the river Tiber – according to legend founded by Romulus and Remus, on the 21st of April of the year 753 BC. It became the capital of the largest empire the world has ever seen. Kings, consuls and emperors have ruled the city and its empire throughout the centuries. The city of Rome became the centre of power, wealth, and culture.

After centuries of expansion, the Roman Republic was gradually transformed into an empire, with an emperor on the throne. Octavian (later also known as *Augustus*) supposedly ‘restored’ the Republic, but effectively became the first Roman emperor. Rome flourished. Huge temples were built to honour the gods, not to forget the ‘divine’ emperors themselves. Enormous public structures and buildings were being put up. Literature and poetry, architecture, the arts... All reached higher, even the highest, levels of perfection. Rhetoric and politics were closely connected throughout all of Roman history, even during the Empire – when public speaking seemed to have become less relevant, seeing that the emperors hardly allowed for political manoeuvring space for others. Roman law developed, and became a sophisticated system of rules and regulations. Religion was a determining factor for practically everything in Roman society, hence a crucial feature of daily life. Even with the arrival of Christianity one could argue that almost all things continued as before. Most of all: Rome remained the centre of the world. Until today... Perhaps as no other city in the world, *Roma Aeterna* has left her mark on Western civilisation.

The key objective of this course is to survey the history of Ancient Rome, from its earliest beginnings, the kings of Rome, through the military, political and cultural triumphs of the Roman Republic (the expansion in Italy, as well as the entire Mediterranean world and beyond), to its culmination: the Roman Empire (the crisis and the fall of the Republic, the rise of *Augustus*, the High Empire, and the period of Late Antiquity). Not an easy task, as one of the main problems concerning the studies of Rome and of the Ancient World in general is always one of evidence. We rely on biased, and often fragmented literary sources, sometimes written centuries after the actual events they are describing. Archaeology and epigraphy supplement the literary evidence, but also provide information that stands completely on its own. All the evidence has to be weighed with extreme care and consideration.

Throughout this course, a series of lectures and seminars, we shall attack some of the major issues in the study of ancient Roman society and culture. History is never a single-minded and uniform matter. The various contributions of numerous scholars, next to our main textbook, are all intended to stimulate our own minds to ask further questions, and to start thinking into possible directions towards possible answers – or hypotheses. Primary sources, as well as secondary literature from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, reveal the drama of Roman history, society, politics, and culture. These ancient and modern texts contribute to our awareness of the cultural tradition in which we ourselves also stand.
Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course students should be able to:

- develop their skills in critical thinking, and their ability to express their ideas and opinions!
- determine the importance of history – no matter how ancient!
- assess the relevance of events and people in ancient times to their own lives!
- identify the authenticity and value of primary sources!
- read, analyse, and interpret secondary literature and scholarly debate – and present the full spectrum of ideas and opinions, including their own, either in the written or spoken word!
- remember all the important dates of historical events and individuals – forever and ever!

Attendance Policy
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigour, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation, and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- 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.

The History of Rome, to Constantine the Great meets twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 03:45pm until 05:00pm, and thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade – 1% per unexcused absence!

It is expected of students to contribute a significant part. They are responsible for completing all of the assigned readings, according to the schedule in this syllabus. This course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of ancient Roman history, or indeed of the ancient Latin language. It is intended that students acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the historical background and facts of ancient Rome from her beginnings until almost the end, as well as that of the working of historical mechanisms.

Exams and Final Essay
There will be 2 (TWO) exams, as a test of your acquired knowledge and understanding of our textbook, and part of the additional literature. The textbook provides an extensive outline of the developments of Roman history, society and culture. The facts and the various backgrounds of events, both in time and throughout the Roman world, are the framework of any basic historical understanding and mode of thinking.

You are also required to write an essay, which needs to be submitted one week before the end of the semester. It is strongly recommended to start thinking of a suitable topic, including (some of) the appropriate material, right at the beginning of the course. You will in any case be summoned for a consult half way through the course, in order to establish an outline of the final essay. Essays count 10-15 pages.

Information MUST under all circumstances be cited. Plagiarism of any sort will result in a grade of “F” for the assignment, or, depending on the level, perhaps even for the entire course. See below on university policy regarding Academic Honesty.
Essay Grading

Written work such as essay assignments, and to a certain extent also the midterm and final exams, meriting the grade of “A” (excellent) must:

- address the central question or topic directly and intelligently;
- demonstrate a careful and considered reading of the texts at hand;
- present a lucid thesis and a persuasive argument in its defense;
- use correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction;
- make ample and appropriate use of quotations from the texts;
- weave together thesis and argument, quotations and interpretations;
- 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 essay assignment, to discuss methods for improvement.

Finally, the grade of “D” is assigned to written work and examinations that are simply 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.

### Assessment Components

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>94-100: A 80-83: B- 67-69: D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>90-93: A- 77-79: C+ 60-66: D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>87-89: B+ 74-76: C 59 or lower: F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>84-86: B 70-73: C-</td>
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**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 familiarise 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 to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

**Late or Missed Assignments**

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorisation of the instructor.

**Accessibility Accommodations**

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Academic Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

**Required Text / Materials**

- Assigned readings posted on Sakai.
Course Schedule

Week 1  
*Ab Vrbe Condita – Origins and Formation of Rome*
Tuesday 21 / Thursday 23 January 2020


Week 2  
*The Roman Republic – The First Centuries*
Tuesday 28 / Thursday 29 January 2020

**Primary sources**

**Secondary literature**

Week 3  
*The Roman Republic – Development and Expansion*
Tuesday 4 / Thursday 6 February 2020

**Primary sources**
- Polybius, *Varia*.
- Livy, *Varia*.

**Secondary literature**
- Le Glay, *et al.* (2009), pp. 73-120.

Week 4:  
*The Roman Republic – Democracy “alla Romana”*
Tuesday 11 / Thursday 13 February 2020

**Primary sources**
Secondary literature


Week 5: The Roman Empire – The Birth of Empire

Tuesday 18 / Thursday 20 February 2020

Primary sources


Secondary literature


Week 6: The Roman Empire – Growth and Consolidation

Tuesday 25 / Thursday 27 February 2020

Primary sources


Secondary literature


Week 7: Mid-Term Exam

Tuesday 3 / Thursday 5 March 2020

Week 8: SPRING BREAK!!!

Friday 6 – Sunday 15 March 2020
Week 9  The Roman Empire – Rome and Its Provinces  
Tuesday 17 / Thursday 19 March 2020  

**Primary sources**  

**Secondary literature**  

Week 10  The Roman Empire - Religion  
Tuesday 24 / Thursday 26 March 2020  

**Primary sources**  

**Secondary literature**  

Week 11  The Later Roman Empire – The “Third Century Crisis”  
Tuesday 31 March / Thursday 2 April 2020  

**Primary sources**  
• *The Martyrdom of Saints Agapê, Irenê, and Chionê at Saloniki*, in: Musurillo (1972), pp. 280-293.

**Secondary literature**
• Le Glay, et al. (2009), pp. 441-477.

**Week 12**

**The Later Roman Empire – Constantine the Great and Christianity**

Tuesday 7 / Thursday 9 April 2020

**Primary sources**
• Eusebius, *Vita Constantini / Life of Constantine* XXVII-XXXIII. Translated, with introduction and commentary by Averil Cameron and Stuart G. Hall (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

**Secondary literature**

**Week 13**

**The Later Roman Empire – Pagans and Christians**

Tuesday 14 / Thursday 16 April 2020

**Primary sources**
• Symmachus, *Relatio* III.

**Secondary literature**
• Le Glay, et al. (2009), pp. 525-544.

Week 14: The Later Roman Empire – Decline and Fall?
Tuesday 21 / Thursday 23 April 2020

Primary sources

Secondary literature
• Le Glay, et al. (2009), pp. 547-557.

Final Essay Due: Thursday 23 April 2020

Final Exam: Monday 27 – Thursday 30 April 2020