

INTRODUCTION TO ROMAN CIVILIZATION

fall 2019



CCI 202-01 MW 2:00-3:15 in Bryan 160

Dr. Le Blanc, rlleblan@uncg.edu

MHRA 1109 Office Hours M 3:30-4:30 W 11-1

Or email for an appointment!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the **culture and history of the ancient Roman empire from its beginnings**. Since this class counts toward the general education requirements in the Global and History Perspectives categories (GL and GHP), we will use these primary sources to trace the development of **key themes in Rome's history, art, literature, intellectual culture and socio-political practices** in the Roman world. We will ask: **who were the Romans?** How did they live? What was the social structure of Roman society, and how did it impact political life? What was the social, cultural, religious, and political landscapes they inhabited? **We will particularly investigate the rich diversity of perspectives, experiences, and voices of people living in Rome and the Roman empire through a variety of different primary sources (literary, epigraphic, archaeological).**

TEXTS

1. **Mary Beard, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome***
2. **Robert Harris, *Imperium***
3. ***The Aeneid* (translation by Ruden) [purchase is optional; free ebook available @ UNCG Library]**

ASSESSMENT

ONLINE QUIZZES

Online weekly quizzes covering assigned readings. Due most Wednesdays afternoon by 1pm. 10 questions, open-book, timed for 15 minutes, 2 chances to take. No make-ups for any reason. Lowest 2 scores dropped at the end of the semester.

20%

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Unannounced in-class workshops, quizzes, activities, group assignments, short essays testing ability to engage with and interpret about primary sources and the past. 5 pts each, no make-ups for any reason. Lowest 2 scores dropped at the end of the semester.

20%

TEST ONE

Midterm exam covering approx. 1/3 of course material. Multiple-choice and some short answer. Questions will include images, questions about passages, short answers about thematic issues. Study with notes, powerpoints, terms on Canvas, timeline in book. Will include questions on reading material not discussed in class.

20%

DATE: WED SEPT 25

TEST TWO

Midterm exam covering approx. 1/3 of course material. Multiple-choice and some short answer. Questions will include images, questions about passages, short answers about thematic issues. Study with notes, powerpoints, terms on Canvas, timeline in book. Will include reading material not discussed in class.

20%

DATE: MON NOV 4

TEST THREE

Final exam covering last third of class material, with a cumulative short answer section. Multiple-choice and some short answer. Questions will include images, questions about passages, short answers about thematic issues. Study with notes, powerpoints, terms on Canvas, timeline in book. Will include questions on reading material not discussed in class.

20%

DATE: MON DEC 9st, 3:30-5:00pm IN OUR USUAL ROOM

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course belongs to the General Education curriculum at UNCG, fulfilling the Historical Perspectives (GHP) category, as well as carrying the Global (GL) marker. The course also fulfills the General Education core Pre-Modern History (GPM) requirement. The first three Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are for GL courses, and the last two are GHP.

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.
4. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
5. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes: upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify and interpret important people, events, and ideas in the ancient Roman world (SLO 1,4)
2. Engage with primary sources and to examine how authors of different time periods and social backgrounds present key issues (SLO 1, 3, 4, 5).
3. Consider how Roman ideas and beliefs influenced the development of their civilization, and, more generally, the development of world history (SLO 2-5).
4. Use different types of primary sources to approach the lived experiences of Romans from diverse social, religious, ethnic, and political backgrounds.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1. Complete the readings for each class before arriving (“reading” includes both reading the text, and working toward comprehension of the text, hopefully with the use of the term lists and study questions [posted to Canvas] as aids).

2. Attend class regularly, be prepared to actively participate in class discussions (class-wide, in pairs, in small groups) and to complete in-class activities.

3. Take notes and be active members of the course—not to zone out, go to sleep, or do other work.

4. Be respectful of the class at all times, particularly when discussing sensitive topics.

5. Be proactive; ask questions, stop by Dr. Le Blanc’s office hours with concerns.

6. Put effort and investment into course assignments and materials in order to succeed; also, to learn how to identify important terms and concepts for self-review (with the aid of term lists and posted powerpoints before exams).

WEATHER

In case classes are canceled by the University due to inclement weather please check your email as soon as possible for instructions from me, which may include an alternate assignment.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; email: oars@uncg.edu). If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, **please talk with me before the end of the second week.**

RELIGIOUS DAYS

State law allows students to have up to two absences for religious reasons per academic year and to be allowed to make up work missed. If this applies to you, you must notify me two weeks in advance and make arrangements to make up missed work at that time. I reserve the right to require you to do this work before your absence.

1. **It is your responsibility** to check Canvas and your UNCG email daily. You will be notified of any change in schedule or assignments via a Canvas email and posted announcement.
2. Your grades will be posted throughout the semester on Canvas, typically within a week of grading. **It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades on Canvas, and to inform your instructor of any errors (i.e. a missing grade) or questions ASAP.**
3. Please include a salutation (i.e. “Dear Dr. Le Blanc”) and include your name and the name of our class (i.e. Roman Civ) in all emails.

CANVAS & EMAIL POLICY



GRADING SCALE

A	96-93%
A-	92-90%
B+	89-87%
B	86-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%
C	76-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%
D	66-63%
D-	62-60%
F	Below 60%

I am happy to discuss your grades with you provided you **schedule an appointment to come to my office to discuss any issues or questions you might have.** Grades will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester so that you may keep track of your performance in the class. My “rounding” policy is as follows: I will only take into account the first number after the decimal, i.e. 89.6 will be rounded up to a 90% (A-), but an 89.59 will be a B+. If I make an error calculating your grade I’m more than happy to fix it., but I do not negotiate grades.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

POLICY Students are expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which is available at <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. All assignments are to be completed individually the student, without outside aid, unless specified by the instructor.



COURSE SCHEDULE

**Please note that I retain the right to modify this syllabus and any course assignments at any time; changes will be announced via email and on the Canvas website.*

Wednesday, August 21: Introduction; Syllabus; Meet the Romans

Read: Review the syllabus and familiarize yourself with our Canvas page!

Monday, August 26: Sources & Some Key Institutions

Read: *SPQR* Ch.1

Wednesday, August 28: Roman Myths

[syllabus & reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: (1) *SPQR* Ch. 2; (2) selections from Livy [PDF on Canvas]

Monday, September 2: NO CLASSES—LABOR DAY

Wednesday, September 4: Kings of Rome

[reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *SPQR* Ch. 3

Monday, September 9: Roman Heroes; Being Roman in the Republic

Read: *SPQR* Ch.4, pp.131–153

Wednesday, September 11: Roman Government

[reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: Selections from Cicero *On the Republic* [PDF on Canvas]

Monday, September 16: Romans at Home

Read: (1) *SPQR* Ch.8; (2) Read the *Laudatio Turiae* [PDF on Canvas]

Wednesday, September 18: Carthage & Expansion

[reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *SPQR* Ch.4, pp.153–168, Ch.5; (2) Read the selection from Livy Book 5, sections 5.37-5.42; (3) begin reading *Imperium*

Monday, September 23: Struggle in the LR

Read: *SPQR* Ch.6; continue reading *Imperium*

Wednesday, September 25: MIDTERM #1

[no reading quiz this week]

Monday, September 30: Late Republic & Death of Julius Caesar

Read: *SPQR* Ch.7; continue reading *Imperium*

COURSE SCHEDULE (cont.)

Wednesday, October 2: *Imperium* [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: Make sure you have read at least part I of *Imperium* (ends on p.151)

Monday, October 7: *Imperium*

Read: Finish *Imperium*

Wednesday, October 9: Augustus [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *SPQR* Ch. 9, pp.337–360

Monday, October 14: NO CLASSES—FALL BREAK

Wednesday, October 16: Aeneid [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *Aeneid* Books 1-2

Monday, October 21: Aeneid

Read: *Aeneid* Books 3-4

Wednesday, October 23: Aeneid [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: Read summary of *Aeneid* Book 5 on Canvas; read *Aeneid* Books 6-7

Monday, October 28: Aeneid

Read: *Aeneid* Books 8-10

Wednesday, October 30: Aeneid [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *Aeneid* Books 11-12

Monday, November 4: MIDTERM #2

Wednesday, November 6: The Augustan City

[no reading quiz this week]

Read: *SPQR* Ch.9, pp.360–385

Monday, November 11: Emperors

Read: (1) *SPQR* Ch.10; (2) Selections from Suetonius' biographies of Caligula and Nero [PDF on Canvas]

Wednesday, November 13: Religions of Rome and its Empire [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *SPQR* pp.516–520

Monday, November 18: Daily Life

Read: *SPQR* Ch.11

Wednesday, November 20: Entertainment [reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: Primary sources about chariot racing [PDF on Canvas]

Monday, November 25: The Provinces

Read: *SPQR* Ch.12, pp.476–502, pp.511–516, pp.520–525

Wednesday, November 27:

NO CLASSES—THANKSGIVING BREAK

[no reading quiz this week]

Monday, December 2: The Economy

Read: (1) *SPQR* Ch.12, pp.503–510; (2) Look over Diocletian's Price list [PDF on Canvas]

Wednesday, December 4: The Second Century & Beyond

[reading quiz due @1pm]

Read: *SPQR* Epilogue

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 3:30-5:00pm

A NOTE ABOUT OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours are blocks of time designated by professors specifically for meeting with students. These aren't the only times you can meet with a professor, but during their posted office hours you can (generally speaking) be guaranteed to find them in the office. Office hours are intended to give you the opportunity to walk in and engage with your professors about the class material, to ask questions, and to address concerns or problems. Are you stuck on a part in the reading? Come to office hours and ask about it! Do you want to know more about a topic covered in class? Come to office hours to ask for more sources. Is there something going on that is impacting your ability to

complete your work on time, or get to class? You got it—office hours. Have a question about a grade, or about preparing for a test? You get the drift. I especially encourage you to come to office hours if you have questions about preparing for the exams, or want to discuss ways to improve note-taking, test-taking, and overall class performance. Finally, if my office hours this semester (M 3:30-4:30 or W 11-1) don't work for you, please send me an email and we'll set up a time for you to come in outside of those hours. Alternately, you should always feel free to swing by my office (MHRA 1109)—if my door is open, I'm in, and can usually meet with you, at least for a few minutes.



HOW TO SUCCEED

1. Do the assigned reading before class. Make notes of **questions** you have, or points of confusion.
2. Attend class regularly and take good notes! Notes and powerpoints will usually serve as your primary study tools for the exams.
3. Don't forget to take the online quizzes, and attend regularly in order to get a high grade on your in-class activities scores. Activities and quizzes help deepen your comprehension of the material, and help you practice approaching the ancient world critically and actively.—**Set a weekly reminder in your phone to take the online reading quiz!**
4. Find someone in class to study with, and who you can share notes with if you're absent.
5. Keep me in the loop! If you're having problems with the course, or with life in general, don't just ghost on the class—get in touch with me, and we'll find a way to support you, and to connect you to the class or campus resources that will help you.
6. Start making exam study guides early.
7. In order to do well, you **HAVE** to do the reading and put effort into learning. Pro tip: when I tell you to do the thing, do the thing. You're more likely to get a higher grade (and learn something).
8. Recognize that in-class activities and quizzes are worth 20% each toward your final grade; I'll drop two in each category at the end of the semester, but miss too many and it will be difficult

ONLINE QUIZ DUE DATES

W 8/28 @ 1pm**
 W 9/4 @ 1pm
 W 9/11 @ 1pm
 W 9/18 @ 1pm
 NO QUIZ W 9/25
 W 10/2 @ 1pm
 W 10/9 @ 1pm
 W 10/16 @ 1pm
 W 10/23 @ 1pm
 W 10/30 @ 1pm
 NO QUIZ W 11/6
 W 11/13 @ 1pm
 NO QUIZ W 11/27
 W 11/4 @ 1pm

**=two quizzes due on this day

EXAM DATES

EXAM 1

Wed Sept 25

EXAM 2

Mon Nov 4

FINAL

Mon Dec 9
 3:30-5:00 in
 our usual
 room

