

**Prof. Joseph McAlhany**

WOOD HALL 230 OFFICE HOURS: TR 2-3 &amp; by appt.

✉ [joseph.mcalhany@uconn.edu](mailto:joseph.mcalhany@uconn.edu)**Required Texts**M. Crawford, *The Roman Republic*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Harvard Univ. 1993. ISBN 978-0674779273C. Wells, *The Roman Empire*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Harvard Univ. 1995. ISBN 978-0674777705R. Mellor, *The Historians of Ancient Rome: An Anthology of the Major Writings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Routledge, 2012. ISBN 978-0415527163Plutarch, *The Rise of Rome*. C. Pelling and I. Scott-Kilvert, trans. Revised edition, Penguin 2017. ISBN 978-0140449754Plutarch, *Roman Lives*. R. Waterfield, trans. Oxford 2009. ISBN 978-0199537389▶ **Copies will be placed on reserve at Babbidge Library****The Course**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you the history and culture of one of the most influential and long-lasting civilizations of the Western world. Within a few centuries, Rome grew from a small hill-top settlement to the dominant empire of the ancient Mediterranean, and the way they thought and behaved (and the way they are *believed* to have thought and behaved) still shapes the way peoples all over the world act, in ways we might not recognize and in ways we might not like. You will learn not only what their history was, but also what it wasn't: our sources are limited, and often represent only one view, so you will learn how to read and question sources. Along the way, you will also understand how history gets made, both by the people who lived it and the people who wrote it.

**Requirements & Grading****Class Participation 30%**

You are expected to come to class prepared to take an active role in class discussions. **No electronic devices or any kind are allowed, and must not be visible.**

**Short Writing Assignments 30%**

Every week there will be a short writing assignment (500 words max.). The purpose of these assignments is to encourage your own independent and critical engagement with the readings; no secondary material or resources are permitted. You will be graded on the quality of your answer as well as spelling and grammar. Assignments are due **Sunday at midnight**; late assignments will not be accepted for any reason.

**Daily Quizzes 30%**

Each quiz consists of 5 multiple-choice quiz questions based on the week's readings. The quizzes are designed simply to ensure that you have read the material. There will also be one or two map quizzes.

**Final Exam 10%**

The exams will likely consist of short essay questions, much like the prompts for the short writing assignments, though we will discuss the format near the end of the semester.

**Some Fine but Important Print**

If you have a need for accommodations in this course, please contact me during the first week of class. And if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know or come talk to me.

# Schedule

An \* indicates a reading available as a PDF on HuskyCT.

## WEEK 1 IN THE BEGINNING

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8.29 Tu Intro

8.31 Th Crawford, ch. I: The Sources (pp. 5-15)  
Livy, Preface (Mellor, pp. 118-121)

### Writing Assignment [Due 9.03 Su]

► The Capitoline Wolf (or “lupa”) is one of the most recognizable images of Rome, and is still in use today. What values does this image project?

## WEEK 2 THE FOUNDING MYTHS OF ROME

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9.05 Tu Plutarch, *Romulus* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 10-47)  
\*Vergil, selections from the *Aeneid*

9.07 Th Livy, Book 1.4-13, 15-17 (Mellor, pp. 121-131)

### Writing Assignment [Due 9.10 Su]

► Of the three sources you’ve read (Livy, Vergil, and Plutarch), who do you think is the best historian? Defend your answer.

## WEEK 3 KINGS TO CONSULS

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9.12 Tu Crawford, ch. II: Italy & Rome (pp. 16-21)  
Livy, Book 1.17-21, 34-49, 55-60 (Mellor, pp. 130-150)  
Plutarch, *Life of Numa* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 61-91)

9.14 Th Polybius, Book 6 (Mellor, pp. 30-49)  
Twelve Tables (Mellor, pp. 1-4)  
Plutarch, *Life of Publicola* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 105-129)

### Writing Assignment. [Due 9.17 Su]

► Carefully examine Jacques-Louis David’s painting *The Lictors Bring to Brutus the Bodies of His Sons*. After you have read the account in Livy, what do you think David is trying to say about Brutus and the Romans?

## WEEK 4 PATRICIANS, PLEBEIANS, AND OTHER ROMANS

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9.19 Tu Crawford, ch. III: The Roman Governing Classes (pp. 22-31)  
Livy, Book 3 (Mellor, pp. 151-166)  
Plutarch, *Life of Coriolanus* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 146-187)

9.21 Th Livy, Book 5 (Mellor, pp. 167-184)  
Plutarch, *Life of Camillus* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 200-244)

### Writing Assignment [Due 9.24 Su]. Choose one.

► Examine Botticelli’s *Story of Virginia*. Did Botticelli capture the story of Verginia as presented in Livy? Use evidence from both the painting and the text to support your argument.

► Examine the engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi (made between 1727 and 1815, and based on a painting by Sebastiano Ricci) featuring Camillus and Brennus. How well do you think the engraving presents the scene as described in the readings.

## WEEK 5 CONQUEST AT HOME & ABROAD

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9.26 Tu Crawford, ch. IV: The Conquest of Italy, ch. V: From Italian Power to Mediterranean Power, & ch. VI: The Conquest of the East (pp. 31-69)  
Livy 21, 22, 30, 39 (Mellor, pp. 185-220; 243-253)

- 9.28 Th** Nepos, *Life of Hannibal* (Mellor, pp. 110-117)  
Livy 31, 33 (Mellor, pp. 221-232)  
Plutarch, *Fabius Maximus* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 256-288)

**Writing Assignment [Due 10.1 Su].** Choose one.

- ▶ Compare the final speeches of Hannibal and Scipio in the reading from Livy (Mellor pp. 212-215). Which leader would you choose to follow? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
  
- ▶ Use material from the readings of this week or prior weeks to write a brief speech in the voice of a Roman either in favor of or opposed to the proposal to raze Carthage to the ground.

**WEEK 6 STRUGGLES WITHIN**

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- 10.3 Tu** Crawford, ch. VII: The Consequences of Empire—The Governing Classes, ch. VIII: The Imperial Power” & ch. IX: “The Consequences of Empire—The Governed” (pp. 70-106)  
Decree on Bacchanalia (Mellor, pp. 4-5)  
Plutarch, *Titus Flamininus* (*Rise of Rome*, pp. 450-472)  
Plutarch, *Cato the Elder* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 3-35)

- 10.5 Th** Crawford, ch. X: Reform & Revolution & ch. XI Rome & Italy (pp. 107-122)  
Appian, Book 1 (Mellor, pp. 478-490)  
Plutarch, *Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 77-115)

**Writing Assignment [Due 10.8 Su].** Choose one.

- ▶ The Gracchi sought economic reform and social justice within an entrenched political system. Based upon your readings, was their attempt doomed from the start?
  
- ▶ Some Roman historians date the end of the Roman Republic to the Gracchan reforms. What reasons do you think they had for doing so, and would you agree with their choice?

**WEEK 7 THE LAST GENERATION**

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- 10.10 Tu** Crawford, ch. XII: The End of Consensus (pp. 123-137)  
Sallust, *War with Jugurtha* (Mellor, pp. 65-73)  
Plutarch, *Marius* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 116-168)

- 10.12 Th** Crawford, ch. XIII: The World Turned Upside Down (pp. 138-153)  
Plutarch, *Sulla* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 169-215)

**Writing Assignment [Due 10.15 Su].**

- ▶ Based upon this week’s readings, where would you place the blame for the disorder at Rome?

**WEEK 8 END OF THE REPUBLIC**

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- 10.17 Tu** Crawford, ch. XIV: The Embattled Oligarchy (pp. 154-169)  
Sallust, *The Catilinarian Conspiracy* (Mellor, pp. 50-64)  
Caesar, *Gallic Wars* (Mellor, pp. 81-109)

- 10.19 Th** Crawford, ch. XV: *The Military Dynasts* (pp. 154-186)  
Suetonius, *Life of Caesar* (Mellor, pp. 395-423)

**Writing Assignment [Due 10.22 Su].**

- ▶ How would you compare the Roman response to Mithridates and Jugurtha with the response to the threat of Catiline. Do you think the rapid response to Catiline was justified?

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**WEEK 9      WARS MORE THAN CIVIL**

**10.24 Tu**      Plutarch, *Pompey* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 216-296)

**10.26 Th**      Plutarch, *Caesar* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 297-359)

**Writing Assignment [Due 10.29 Su].**

- ▶ Read Antony's speech from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Based upon your other readings, do you think the speech is an accurate historical representation?

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**WEEK 10      AUGUSTUS & THE BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE**

**10.31 Tu**      Wells, ch. I: The New Order; ch. II: The Sources; ch. III: The Work of Augustus; ch. IV: Italy under Augustus: The Social and Intellectual Climate (pp. 11-94)

Plutarch, *Antony* (*Roman Lives*, pp. 360-430)

Cassius Dio 51 (Mellor, pp. 491-495)

\*Vergil, *Eclogue* 4

\*Horace, "Cleopatra" Ode

**11.02 Th**      Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* (Mellor, pp. 424-459)

Augustus, *The Achievements of Augustus* & Appendix 1-4 (Mellor, pp. 255-262)

Velleius Paterculus (Mellor, pp. 263-268)

Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-15 (Mellor, pp. 306-315)

Cassius Dio 52 (Mellor, pp. 496-501)

**Writing Assignment [Due 11.05 Su].**

- ▶ The last section of *The Achievements of Augustus* concerns translation. Why do you think this is in the text?

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**WEEK 11      FAMILY TROUBLES: A CENTURY OF STRIFE**

**11.07 Tu**      Wells, ch. V: The Consolidation of the Principate & ch. VI: The Army and The Provinces in the First Century AD (pp. 95-151)

Tacitus, *Annals* 1-6 (Mellor, pp. 315-343)

Suetonius, *Life of Claudius* 2-6 (Mellor, pp. 460-463)

Tacitus, *Annals* 12-13 (Mellor, pp. 351-354)

Speech of Claudius on Gallic Senators (Mellor, pp. 6-8)

**11.09 Th**      Tacitus, *Annals* 13-16 (Mellor, pp. 352-366)

Tacitus, *Histories* 1, 3, 4 (Mellor, pp. 366-379)

Josephus, *Jewish War* (Mellor, pp. 269-289)

*Law Bestowing Power on the Emperor* (Mellor, pp. 8-10)

Pliny the Younger, *Letters to Tacitus on Vesuvius* (Mellor, pp. 388-391)

Tacitus, *Agricola* and *Germania* (Mellor, pp. 289-305)

**Writing Assignment [Due 11.12 Su]**

- ▶ What elements of the imperial biographies create suspicions about their accuracy?

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**WEEK 12      MOVE TO ORDER**

**11.14 Tu**      Wells, ch. VII: Emperors Made elsewhere than at Rome: Galba to Trajan & ch. VIII: The State of Italy from Petronius to Pliny (pp. 123-201)

Pliny, "Letters between Pliny and Trajan on the Christians" (Mellor, pp. 392-395)

**11.16 Th**      Dio Cassius, *Epitome of Book 68* (Mellor, pp. 502-516)

*Life of Hadrian* (Mellor 544-560)

**Writing Assignment [Due 11.19 Su].**

- ▶ Based on the letters between Pliny the Younger and Trajan, provide a critical evaluation of Trajan's approach to the Christians.

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**WEEK 13      THANKSGIVING**

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**WEEK 14 PAX ROMANA**

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**11.28 Tu** Wells, ch. IX: The Orderly Government of the Empire: Hadrian to Marcus Aurelius & ch. X: 'The Immeasurable Majesty of the Roman Peace' (pp. 202–255)  
Cassius Dio, *Epitome of Book 72* & *Epitome of Book 67* (Mellor, pp. 516-525)

**11.30 Th** \*Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* [selections]

**Writing Assignment [Due 12.03 Su].**

► Based upon what you have learned this semester, do you think the collapse of every civilization is inevitable?

**WEEK 15 CHRISTIANS & BARBARIANS**

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**12.05 Tu** Wells, ch. XI: An Age of Transition: Commodus to Maximinus the Thracian (pp. 256-272)  
Eusebius, *The Life of Constantine* (Mellor 527-543)

**12.07 Th** Final Review