History 312: The Fall of the Roman Republic  
Palmer 205, MWF 3-3:50

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11 am, Wednesday 2-3 pm, or by appointment

Course Description: Rome's transition from Republic to Empire, when power shifted from the Senate and People to a single emperor, is one of the most well-known periods of Roman history, involving a number of famous characters: Julius Caesar, Cicero, Pompey, and Augustus. In this course, we will investigate the nature and causes of the fall of the Roman Republic. What was the Republic, and why did it end? How did Rome come to be ruled by emperors? Focusing especially on the last century BC, we will examine Roman politics and society to find answers to a question that has perplexed some of the greatest thinkers of the last two millennia: How does a proud and powerful republic fall into one-man rule?

In the process, we will problematize the study of the "fall", considering questions such as the following: Was the Roman Republic really so different from the Empire? What are the continuities between these two eras, and where does the break really occur? In our study of the Republic, does our knowledge of what happens next - the Empire - enhance and distort our understanding of late republican events?

The requirements for this course are as follows. Each of these must be completed in order to pass the course.

1. Class participation: You must come to class having completed and considered the readings. You should be prepared to ask questions and discuss.
2. Response papers: Several brief (1-2 pages double-spaced) response papers will be assigned throughout the semester.
3. Two examinations in class.
4. One typewritten, 2000 word paper, due before the final exam. The paper is to be based on the student's own interpretation of primary sources, and does not require research beyond the assigned readings. Evaluation will be on the basis of grammar and style as well as content. Topics and guidelines will be discussed in class. Late papers will incur a penalty of one letter grade for each day the paper is late.
5. A cumulative final examination in the final exam week.

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:
Participation 15%; exams 30%; response papers 15%; final paper 20%; and final exam 20%

Required Texts
Polybius, The Rise of the Roman Empire (Penguin, 1979, tr. Walbank)

*THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FAIR NOTICE*

Wednesday, Jan. 13 – Introductory lecture: What was the Roman Republic?

Friday, Jan. 15 – The Basis of the Republic: The Emergence of the Nobiles
Reading: *The Romans* Ch. 2 (pp. 32-57)

Monday, Jan. 18 - NO CLASS - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Wednesday, Jan. 20 - The Republic of the Nobiles
Reading: Polybius pp. 302-352 (Book 6)

Friday, Jan. 22 – Carthage, The Great Enemy
Reading: *The Romans* Ch. 4 (pp. 97-135)

Monday, Jan. 25 – Mediterranean Conquest: Changed World
Reading: *The Romans* chapter 5 pp. 136-153

Wednesday, Jan. 27 - Mediterranean Conquest: Changed City
Reading: Selections from Coarelli, “The City of Rome” from Rosenstein

Friday, Jan. 29 – Slavery in the Roman World
Reading: Selections from Shaw

Monday, Feb. 1 - Internal Politics in Rome in the 2nd Century BC
Reading: Flower Section IV

Wednesday, Feb. 3 – Tiberius Gracchus and Agrarian Reform
Reading: *The Romans* Ch. 5 pp. 153-165

Friday, Feb. 5 – The Death of Tiberius Gracchus
Reading: Plutarch *Tiberius Gracchus*
Class Presentation: Trying Tiberius Gracchus

Monday, Feb. 8 – Gaius Gracchus
Reading: Plutarch *Gaius Gracchus*

Wednesday, Feb. 10 – EXAM ONE
Friday, Feb. 12 – The Rise of Marius  
**Reading:** Plutarch *Marius*

Monday, Feb. 15 – Jugurtha  
**Reading:** Sallust *The Jugurthine War*

Wednesday, Feb. 17 – Marius and the Reform of the Roman Army  
**Reading:** *The Romans* chapter 6 pp. 166-175

Friday, Feb. 19 - The Social War  
**Reading:** *The Romans* chapter 6 pp. 176-192

Monday, Feb. 22 – Debating the Causes of the Social War  
**Reading:** *Cambridge Ancient History* 104-128

Wednesday, Feb. 24 - The Rise of Sulla  
**Reading:** Plutarch *Sulla*

Friday, Feb. 26 – Sulla’s New Republic  
**Reading:** *The Romans* chapter 7 193-204, Frier in *AJP* 92 pp. 585-604

Monday, March 1 - Sulla's New Republic  
**Reading:** Flower Section VII, Flower “Remembering and Forgetting Temple Destruction”

Wednesday, March 3 - Pompey the Great  
**Reading:** *The Romans* chapter 7 pp. 204-224

Friday, March 5 – Pompey the Great  
**Reading:** Plutarch *Pompey*

Monday, March 8 - Cicero and the Catilinarian Conspiracy  
**Reading:** Sallust *The Conspiracy of Catiline* pp. 175-233

Wednesday, March 10 - Cicero and the Catilinarian Conspiracy  
**Reading:** Excerpts from Cicero's speeches against Catiline, photocopies  
**Class Presentation:** Trial of Cicero

Friday, March 12 – EXAM TWO

Monday, March 15 – SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 17 – SPRING BREAK

Friday, March 19 - SPRING BREAK
Monday, March 22 – Religion in the Late Republic  
   **Reading:** Beard, Rome in the Late Republic Ch. 3 (photocopies)

Wednesday, March 24 – Milo and Clodius  
   **Reading:** Cicero's Speech on Behalf of Milo (photocopies)

Friday, March 26 – Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus  
   **Reading:** *The Romans* pp. 225-244

Monday, March 29 - Women in the Late Republic 
   **Reading:** Selections from Catullus and Cicero *Pro Caelio* (photocopies)

Wednesday, March 31 – EASTER RECESS

Friday, April 2 - EASTER RECESS

Monday, April 5 – Literature in the Late Republic  
   **Reading:** “Literature” in Rosenstein (photocopies)

Wednesday, April 7 – Caesar in Gaul  
   **Reading:** Caesar *Gallic War* 3-34 (photocopies)

Friday, April 9 – Caesar’s March on Rome and Dictatorship  
   **Reading:** *The Romans* pp. 244-266

Monday, April 12 - Caesar’s Assassination  
   **Reading:** Plutarch *Caesar*

Wednesday, April 14 - The Republicans  
   **Reading:** Plutarch *Cato the Younger* (photocopies)  
   Class Presentation: Caesar vs. the Republicans

Friday, April 16 - The Triumvirate  
   **Reading:** Flower Section VIII

Monday, April 19 - Octavian and Antony  
   **Reading:** *The Romans* 279-288, Plutarch *Antony*

Wednesday, April 21 - Octavian/Augustus  
   **Reading:** *Res Gestae, The Romans* 288ff.

Friday, April 23 - Octavian/Augustus  
   **Reading:** Suetonius’ *Divus Augustus*

Monday, April 26 – Religion under Augustus
Reading: Selection from Beard, North, and Price (photocopies)

Wednesday, April 28 - Onward to Vespasian: Continuity and Change under the Emperors
Reading: The Romans 353-362

Friday, April 30 - Class presentation, “Who brought the Republic down?”