

History 312: The Fall of the Roman Republic
Palmer 210, MW 3-4:15

Prof. Susan Satterfield
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Office Hours: MW 2-3 pm, Th 1-2 pm

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. Included in this grade will be pop quizzes and occasional response papers.
2. Student Presentation: Each student will perform a 10-15 minute presentation on an assigned topic.
3. Two examinations in class.
4. One typewritten, 2000 word paper, due at the time of 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 20%; exams 30%; presentation 10%; final paper 20%; and final exam 20%

Required Texts

Plutarch, *Roman Lives: A Selection of Eight Lives* (Oxford World Classics, 2009, tr. Robin Waterfield)

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

Appian, *The Civil Wars* (Penguin 1996, tr. Carter)

Sallust, *Jugurthine War, Conspiracy of Catiline* (Penguin, 1963, tr. Handford)

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* (Penguin, 1989, tr. Graves)

M. T. Boatwright, D. J. Gargola, R. J. A. Talbert, *The Romans from Village to Empire. A History of Ancient Rome from Earliest Times to Constantine* (Oxford, 2004)

Harriet Flower, *Roman Republics* (Princeton, 2009)

*THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FAIR NOTICE

Wednesday, Aug. 22 – Introductory lecture: What was the Roman Republic?

Monday, Aug. 27 – The Republic of the Nobiles

Reading: Polybius pp. 302-352 (Book 6)

Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Carthage and Mediterranean Conquest

Reading: The Romans Ch. 4 and 5 (pp. 97-153)

Student Presentation: The Destruction of Carthage

Monday, Sept. 3 - LABOR DAY (NO CLASS!)

Wednesday, Sept. 5 - Rome in the 2nd Century BC

Reading: Flower Section IV, "The City of Rome" from Rosenstein

Monday, Sept. 10 - Tiberius Gracchus, Slavery, and Agrarian Reform

Reading: *The Romans* Ch. 5 pp. 153-165

Wednesday, Sept. 12 – The Death of Tiberius Gracchus

Reading: Plutarch *Tiberius Gracchus*

**Student Presentation: 1) Scipio's Murder of Tiberius Gracchus
2) Veto Power in American Politics**

Monday, Sept. 17 – Gaius Gracchus

Reading: Plutarch *Gaius Gracchus*

Wednesday, Sept. 19 – The Rise of Marius

Reading: Plutarch *Marius*

Monday, Sept. 24 – Marius, Army Reform, and the Jugurthine War

Reading: *The Romans* chapter 6 pp. 166-175, Sallust *The Jugurthine War*

Student Presentation: Saturninus

Wednesday, Sept. 26 – EXAM ONE

Monday, Oct. 1 – The Social War

Reading: *The Romans* chapter 6 pp. 176-192, *Cambridge Ancient History* 104-128

Wednesday, Oct. 3 - The Rise of Sulla

Reading: Plutarch *Sulla*

Student Presentation: Cinna and Carbo

Monday, Oct. 8 - Sulla's New Republic

Reading: *The Romans* chapter 7 193-204, Flower Section VII

Student Presentation (2): Sulla's Government

Wednesday, Oct. 10 – Pompey the Great

Reading: *The Romans* chapter 7 pp. 204-224, Plutarch *Pompey*

Monday, Oct. 15 - FALL BREAK

Wednesday, Oct. 17 - Cicero and the Catilinarian Conspiracy

Reading: Sallust *The Conspiracy of Catiline* pp. 175-233, Excerpts from Cicero's speeches against Catiline (photocopies)

Student Presentation: The Exile of Cicero

Monday, Oct. 22 - Milo and Clodius

Reading: Cicero's Speech on Behalf of Milo (photocopies)

Wednesday, Oct. 24 – Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus

Reading: *The Romans* pp. 225-244

Friday, Oct. 29 – EXAM TWO

Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Caesar in Gaul

Reading: Caesar *Gallic War* 3-34 (photocopies)

Monday, Nov. 5 – Caesar's March on Rome and the Republicans

Reading: Plutarch *Cato the Younger* (photocopies), Appian 2.18-43 and 61-86

Student Presentation (2): What should we do with Caesar?

Wednesday, Nov. 7 - Caesar's Dictatorship

Reading: *The Romans* pp. 244-266

Monday, Nov. 12 - Caesar's Assassination and the Civil Wars

Reading: Plutarch *Caesar*

Wednesday, Nov. 14 - The Civil Wars: Brutus and Cassius v. Octavian and Antony
Reading: Appian *Civil Wars* 4.57-138

Monday, Nov. 19 - The Triumvirate: Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus
Reading: Flower Section VIII
Student Presentation: The Horrors of the Triumvirate

Wednesday, Nov. 21 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - NO CLASS

Monday, Nov. 26 - Octavian and Antony
Reading: *The Romans* 279-288, Plutarch *Antony*
Student Presentation: Rome and Egypt

Wednesday, Nov. 28 - Octavian/Augustus
Reading: *Res Gestae, The Romans* 288ff

Monday, Dec. 3 - Octavian/Augustus
Reading: Suetonius' *Divus Augustus*

Wednesday, Dec. 5 - Class discussion, "Why did the Republic Fall?"
Student Presentations: The Gracchi, Marius, Sulla, Caesar, Augustus