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## HIST 312-01, The Fall of the Roman Republic, Spring 2010

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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**

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, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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?"