

History 211
Spring Quarter, 2009
Roman History

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Required Text

Henry C. Boren. *Roman Society*. Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath. 1992.
A text from the Loeb Classical Library

The Course

Roman history is a narrative survey of political, economic, social, and political developments that created an Empire containing 25% of humanity, established a universal law, and extended citizenship to virtually all its inhabitants. This course will look at some of the major problems presented by Roman history, emphasize its contributions to western history, and note its limitations. Roman life will be discussed and the rise of Christianity and its impact. The evidential nature of this period will be considered and students will see the limitations faced by classical scholars.

Outcomes

This college history course teaches students narrative, analysis of data, explanation, and description. It is necessary to deal with very large data sets that require skills and techniques in order to organize and analyze data correctly and meaningfully. This course also imparts the need for accuracy both in a factual and narrative sense so that students will learn to be able to provide a credible time line of events, and understand the relationships between cause and effect as it operates in history. Students will be presented with term papers and exams; this will help them achieve competency in the expression of written ideas, and the need for both thought and editorial processes in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

This course imparts useful information concerning the history of the Roman Republic and Empire, its principal figures, major events, and the processes that led to its collapse. This will help students distinguish between fact and fiction, understand logical argument, detect bias, measure the difference between mere opinion and informed opinion, and gauge prejudice, both conscious and unconscious.

Students will understand the nature of Roman democracy, the organization of the state, the nature of Rome as an ancient city, and life in the provinces of the Empire.

Students will understand how slavery was practiced, and its place in ancient society.

Students will understand the process that led to the establishment of Christianity as an official state religion, how it developed and its impact upon the ideology of the city-state.

Students will become familiar with the kinds of evidence available to ancient historians and how that evidence may be used.

Teaching Methods

This course is taught by lecture and discussion, and uses digital and audio visual materials when appropriate. Students are expected to have read all assignments in a timely fashion so that they are ready to express informed opinions, and engage in discussion.

Tasks

Students will write a term paper between five and eight pages in length. It will be double-spaced, and employ a ten, eleven or twelve font. The paper will concern a particular theme or event within the scope of the course, and will be fully explained during class. Students must read an ancient author and then describe, explain, analyze and explain the narrative of the work selected. Complete papers will be presented in writing tutorials when students will engage in critical dialogue concerning the strengths and weaknesses of each paper read. Students will submit their papers both in hardcopy and electronically in Word format when presented to the tutorial. Any paper that plagiarizes in part or in whole will receive a failing grade, and it will be reported to the Executive Dean. The paper will represent 25% of the total course grade. They, with exams, will be graded on a scale of 100 points. No curve grading is employed. The due date for the paper is expressed in the class schedule of reading and exams below. Late papers will lose five points for every day late, including the day they are due. Please note that the paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due day.

Each week, with the exception of the week of the mid-term, students will take a quiz on a day nominated by the instructor. These will cover the chapter(s) assigned in Boren and the lectures for that week. The two lowest quiz grades will be discarded before an overall average is generated. The average of quiz grades will represent 20% of the total course grade.

Students will take a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term exam will cover the period up to the week in which it is offered. The final covers only the last third of the course. Each week students will be offered one or two study questions towards the impending exam, and before each a set of terms will also be provided. By the week of the exam, eight questions will have been offered. Four of these will be discarded and four will appear on the exam paper. Students will select one of the four to discuss in an extended essay. This represents 70% of the examination grade. It is therefore imperative that students study five of the eight questions offered. Additionally, the exams will have a list of nine terms that will include major figures, events, and processes discussed in the text and in class. Students will select five of these, and offer a date, briefly identify the item, and then briefly explain the significance. Students will be given about one week prior to each exam a list of terms for which they will be responsible. A comprehensive essay is required on the final, and preparation questions will be provided. The mid-term exam represents 15% and the final 25% of the course grade.

The remaining 15% is a participation grade based upon student attendance and participation in discussions. This will include a weekly discussion of lecture and reading materials.

Grades

The grading scheme is as follows:

A=95-100%	C+=70-74%
A-=90-94%	C=65-69%
B+=85-89%	C-=60-64%
B=80-84%	D=50-59%
B-=75-79%	F=Below 50%

Reading Schedule

	Boren
April 1-3	pp. 1-21
April 6-10	pp. 23-48
April 13-17	pp. 49-64
April 20-24	pp. 65-92
April 27-May 1	pp. 93-116

Mid-Term, May 1st

May 4-7	pp. 117-162
May 11-15	pp. 163-192

Writing Tutorials, May 18th-22nd

May 18-22	pp. 193-231
May 26-29	pp. 233-269

Final Essays due week commencing May 26th

June 1-5	pp. 271-297
June 8-12	pp. 299-323

Final exam is Thursday, June 18th, 9:30-11:20