

The American University of Rome

Department of Archaeology & Classics

CLHS 302: Caesar, Cicero and the Collapse of the Roman Republic

Hours: 3

Credits: 3

Prof. Marco Conti

Office Hours: by appointment

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Class Times: Mon - Wed 3:40pm - 5:05pm Room C4

Course Description

The Roman Republic traditionally began in 509 and lasted until the dictatorship of Julius Caesar (46-44). In that time Rome rose from obscurity to undisputed domination of the whole Mediterranean. This course concentrates on the last fifty years of the Republic down to 42 when Caesar was deified, the Republican forces led by Brutus and Cassius were finally defeated at Philippi and the division of duties and the provinces between Octavian and Antony. Emphasis is given to reading and analysing primary texts (in translation) with particular importance given to the works of Cicero and Caesar.

Students will be introduced to the methodology of ancient history and the critical analysis of a wide variety of historical source materials and the interpretation of classical texts. Archaeological evidence, including art and architecture will also be examined. Field trips to historical sites and museums in Rome will reanimate ancient Roman history.

This course contributes towards AUR General Education embedded skills requirements of oral presentation and/or Information Literacy.

Pre-requisites : A Classics, Classical Studies, or Ancient History course, or permission of the Instructor.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon completing this course students will be able to:

- 1) outline the major events of the history of the late Republic, as narrated and dramatized in some of the major works of Classical literature (in translation). **(CLO 1)**
- 2) discuss the original cultural contexts in which these histories were written, and critically assess their role in ancient society. **(CLO 2)**
- 3) recognize the connection between history and the topography of ancient Rome, through on-site visits. **(CLO 3)**
- 4) examine critically the writing of history and the biases, conscious and unconscious, that it necessarily includes. **(CLO 4)**

Course Learning Activities

- 1) Presentation in class, through Powerpoint and Word files, of the main features of the Roman republican political system.
- 2) Presentation in class, through Powerpoint slides and Word Files, of the main historical events in Roman History from late 2nd century b. C. (The Gracchi brothers) to late 1st century b. C. (death of Cleopatra – 30 b. C.)
- 3) Reading and discussion in class of significant sections of major works in Classical literature concerning the crisis and end of the Roman Republic

- 4) 1 on site visit to the places (Roman Forum), where some of the events discussed in the course actually happened.

Assessment:

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will consist of 15 short answer questions (60 %) and ONE essay chosen from a choice of three essay questions (40 %). **(CLO 1- 2).**

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of 15 short answer questions (60 %) and one essay chosen from a choice of three essay questions (40 %). **(CLO 1-4).**

Independent Research Paper: Students are expected to produce a term paper. This paper will be a report on any aspect of Roman history covered in the course. It is one of the objectives of this course to investigate what makes good history writing and how we can all improve our writing skills through developing our critical and analytical thinking. The term paper is intended to be a formative, learning experience that contributes to this development and thus it is divided into phases that can be reworked. It should be seen as an opportunity for each student to study in depth an aspect of the Roman world that is of particular interest. The paper should be submitted in three (3) phases:

- **Phase 1 (2%):** a description of the topic and a tentative thesis statement, which should be approximately 250 words long.
- **Phase 2 (2%):** a revised thesis statement and a preliminary bibliography (taking account of the comments made on Phase 1) accompanied by an outline of the subject matter of each paragraph in sequential order.
- **Phase 3 (16%):** draft of final research paper, with bibliography (at least 10 titles) and illustrations.

The final paper should be at least 2,500 words in length (including footnotes and bibliography) of double-spaced script. Failure to submit this final draft on time will mean that this paper will NOT be marked. Extensions will be granted only in the most exceptional circumstances. **(CLO 1-4).**

****NB:** Previous phases ***MUST*** be included when submitting subsequent phases. **

Participation. Students are required to complete the reading indicated in the syllabus and as directed in class. The assigned reading of primary texts will often form the basis of class lectures and guide the questions and issues under discussion. To supplement our discussions, there are also assigned readings from secondary texts. This reading is an essential component of the course as students will be expected to acquire a basic understanding of Roman history. Internet sources may be consulted, but only those cited on the syllabus should be considered authoritative. Unannounced quizzes may be given in class on the homework assigned. These are intended to indicate to each student if they are making good progress. The grades do not in themselves count towards the final grade but they may be used to lower the participation grade if it is evident that the assigned reading has not been done. Students who are concerned about their grades for participation can gain or regain extra marks by organizing and leading part of a classroom discussion.

Assessment Criteria	Grade Breakdown
Mid-term Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Independent Research Paper	20%
In Class Presentations	20%
Total	100%

AUR grade values

94 – 100 points	=	A	“Excellent”
90 – 93.99 pts	=	A-	
87 – 89.99	=	B+	
83 – 86.99	=	B	“Good”
80 – 82.99	=	B-	
77 – 79.99	=	C+	

73 – 76.99	=	C	“Satisfactory”
70 – 72.99	=	C-	“Less than Satisfactory”
60 – 69.99	=	D	“Poor”
59.99 – 0	=	F	“Failing”

Written work and examination meriting the grade "A" (excellent) must:

- a) address the assigned question or topic directly and intelligently;
- b) demonstrate a careful and considered reading of the text at hand;
- c) present a lucid thesis and a persuasive argument in its defense;
- e) use correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction;
- f) make ample and appropriate use of quotations from the text at hand;
- g) weave together thesis and argument, quotations and interpretations;
- h) reveal thoughtfulness, originality and insight.

Written work and examinations awarded the grade "B" (good) fulfils the majority of the criteria, often adequately but with definite room for improvement as indicated in the grading marks and comments. The grade "C" (average) is given when written work and examinations fail to meet the majority of the above criteria.

The grade "D" is assigned when written work and examinations are unacceptable

Schedule

Mon 30 August

Review of syllabus; Introduction to course.

Wed 1 September

The government of the Roman Republic (Reading from Polybius' *Histories*).

Mon 6 September

The growth of empire and the question of the *ager publicus*: Tiberius Gracchus. (Readings from Appian's *Civil Wars* and Dio Cassius' *Roman History*).

Wed 8 September

Gaius Gracchus and his Program of Reforms (Readings from Appian's *Civil Wars*, Dio Cassius' *Roman History* and Plutarch's *Parallel Lives*)

Mon 13 September

Marius, leader of the *Populares* (Commons): The Jugurthine War, the Invasion of the Cimbri and Teutones and the situation in Rome at the end of the 2nd century BCE.
(Readings from Sallust's *Jugurthine War* and Florus' *Epitome from Livy*)

Wed 15 September

Marius and Sulla: the so-called Social War, the war against Mithridates and the Civil War between Marius and Sulla.
(Readings from Appian's *Civil Wars* and Florus' *Epitome from Livy*)

Mon 20 September

From the dictatorship of Sulla to the Conspiracy of Catilina.
(Readings from Florus' *Epitome from Livy* and Appian's *Civil Wars*)

Wed 22 September

The conspiracy of Catilina (Readings from Sallust's *On the Conspiracy of Catilina* and Appian's *Civil Wars*).

Mon 27 September

Cicero's Speeches against Catilina (Readings from Cicero's *Catilinariae* and Dio Cassius' *Roman History*) - **Phase I of term paper due!**

Wed 29 September CLASS CANCELLED IN LIEU OF LARGO ARGENTINA AND ROMAN FORUM VISIT

Mon 4 October

Pompey and his crucial role at the end of the Roman Republic (Reading from Dio Cassius' *Roman History* and Florus' *Epitome from Livy*)

Wed 6 October

The early career of Julius Caesar (Reading from Suetonius' *Life of Caesar* and Velleius Paterculus' *Roman History*)

Mon 11 October

The Gallic Wars of Caesar (Reading from Caesar's *Gallic War*)

Wed 13 October Midterm Exam

Mon 18 October

Caesar's war with Pompey (Readings from Suetonius' *Life of Caesar* and Plutarch's *Parallel Lives*) -

Wed 20 October

The Civil War in Caesar's words (Reading from Caesar's *Civil Wars* and Dio Cassius' *Roman History*) **Phase II of term paper due!**

Mon 25 October

The battle of Pharsalus in the testimonies of Caesar and Plutarch (Readings from Caesar's *Civil Wars* and Plutarch's *Parallel Lives*)

Wed 27 October

Caesar after Pharsalus (Reading from Lucan's *Pharsalia* and the *Bellum Hispaliense*)

Mon 1 November - All Saints Day - Class cancelled - University closed

Wed 3 November

Murder of Caesar (Reading from Suetonius' *Life of Caesar* and Dio Cassius' *Roman History*)

Mon 8 November CLASS CANCELLED IN LIEU OF LARGO ARGENTINA AND ROMAN FORUM VISIT

Wed 10 November CLASS CANCELLED IN LIEU OF LARGO ARGENTINA AND ROMAN FORUM VISIT

Friday 12 November Largo Argentina / Roman Forum on-site visit

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Mon 15 November

Brutus, Cassius and the Battle of Philippi (Reading from Dio Cassius, *Roman History* and Appian's *Civil Wars*)

Wed 17 November

Cicero: from the Conspiracy of Catilina to his Death (Reading from Plutarch's *Parallel Lives* and Appian's *Civil Wars*)

Mon-Fri November 22-26 Fall Break

Mon 29 November Cicero and his last work: the Philippics (selections from Cicero's *Philippics* and Dio Cassius, *Roman History*)

Wed 1 December Cleopatra and the end of the Civil Wars (Reading from Plutarch's *Parallel Lives* and Dio Cassius, *Roman History*) - ***Phase III of term paper due!***

Mon 6 December Course Review - Final Exam Review - Students' make-up presentations

Final Exam Friday 10 December, 4:00pm-6:00pm, Room C4

NB: THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

In the rare event that an on-site visit class is postponed due to unforeseen last-minute circumstances (a strike of museum staff for example), every effort will be made to inform students in a timely manner. To avoid any eventual confusion, an e-mail will be sent to all students the evening before a scheduled on-site visit, confirming the meeting place and time.

Required texts*Sources*

Polybius, Histories

M. Cicero, In Catilinam.

Philippics.

J. Caesar, Gallic Wars.

Civil Wars.

Bellum Hispaliense

Sallust, The conspiracy of Catilina, Jugurthine War

Lucan, Pharsalia (Civil War)

Plutarch, Parallel lives (Lives of Caesar, Cicero, Antony, Gaius Gracchus)

Suetonius, Lives of the Twelve Caesars

Appian, Roman History

Florus, Epitome from Livy

Dio Cassius, Roman History

Velleius Paterculus, Roman History

Textbook

D. Shotter, *The Fall of the Roman Republic*, London 1994.

Additional costs : 12 Euro entrance to Roman Forum

Important Information for Remote Students in CLHS 302

As a remote student, you will have access to the live sessions of CLHS 302 via the microphone and webcams installed in each AUR classroom. Please keep in mind the following policies for this class:

Audio and Video

- Students are expected to have their microphones muted during class unless they are actively speaking.
- Students are expected to turn their video on whenever directed to do so by the instructor, but may otherwise leave it off as they prefer.

Participation

- During the class time there will be designated periods for discussion. Remote students will be expected to actively participate in these discussions by voice and/or chat and with their video on just as a student in the classroom would.
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Please remember that remote students are also held to AUR's Absence Policy, which requires the attendance of 70% of class meetings to be eligible for a passing grade. Live class meetings will not be recorded; remote students are expected to attend live class meetings via Zoom. Absences as a result of technological or connectivity problems are considered absences. Should you be experiencing a technological or connectivity issue that is causing you to miss two consecutive classes in any course, contact the Dean's Office immediately.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;

Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;

Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

AUR Academic Integrity Code & Policy against Plagiarism

"Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments, including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports; lending to or producing assignments for others (either for or without payment); using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations, copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own; and otherwise misappropriating the knowledge of others. Such acts are both dishonest and deceptive:

the work submitted to instructors is not the work of the person whose name it bears. In consequence, the sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and facts, including internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form. Failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism." -- AUR Student Handbook, 2006/2007, p. 15.