

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU Virtual International Program

HCL 402 - HISTORY OF ANCIENT ROME: THE EMPIRE SPRING VIP 2020

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Monday-Wednesday, 09:30-10:50

3 CSU Semester Units

@California State University Florence – Via G. Leopardi, 12 – 50121 Florence, Italy

Office Hours: Monday, 11:00 -12:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Content: This course is a historical survey that will assess processes of change over time within a chronological and geographical framework. **Italy is the homeland of the Romans.** Rome was founded in central Italy and from there the Romans started to expand their culture, language, institutions and military power first conquering all of Italy, then a great part of Europe and many of the lands on the Mediterranean Sea.

This course focuses on history, culture, society, religion, art, architecture, literature and daily life of the Romans from the time of Julius Caesar, and Rome's violent conversion from a Republic to an Empire, to the long success of that Empire until to its final collapse in the 5th century A.D.

The analysis of the major institutions and achievements of the Romans will help the students in **tracing the origins of many aspects of European culture and of contemporary western societies and political systems.**

Students will experience ancient Roman history in person, enhancing both their knowledge and their critical approach, through guided visits and on-site learning activities.

Both primary and secondary sources will be used to help students to develop analytical interpretations of textual and non-written evidence.

Excerpts from major authors of the period such as Suetonius and Tacitus.

CSU GE category: D5

Method: Illustrated lectures. Classes and lectures will be held **in English**. Research documents for the students (bibliography, graphic materials, synopsis of the course, and color slides).

As Italy is the homeland of the Romans, the course is supplemented by visits, field trips and on-site learning activities.

Teaching methods include:

- ✓ Lectures and class discussion;
 - ✓ Assigned readings and class discussion;
 - ✓ Web researches;
 - ✓ Videos;
 - ✓ Students-led seminars and students' presentations;
 - ✓ In-class group activities.
 - ✓ Museums and site visits.
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REQUIRED BOOKS / READINGS:

Textbooks:

LE GLAY M., VOISIN J.-L., LE BOHEC Y., (EDS.), *A HISTORY OF ROME*, WILEY-BLACKWELL 2009.

On reserve in CSU Florence library.

Costs and location for purchasing the textbook: 30,78 Euro on www.bookdepository.com and www.amazon.it (also used).

Downloads:

assigned readings for each class (*all available at CSU Florence Library) will be assigned or shared by the instructor on Dropbox.

Students are expected to collect any additional materials/photocopy distributed in class by the instructor and to consider it as part of the program, to be tested during exams.

Additional readings and web resources may be given by the instructor during the semester.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. *Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.*

CLASS SITE VISITS

Visits are included in this course and you are required to attend all of them.

* **Visit to Fiesole (Archaeological site + museum) – Entrance Fee: 6 Euro**

* **Visit to Roman Florence and the Roman Theatre. – Entrance Fee: 4 Euro** – possibly we can get a free entrance

* Other possible visits tba.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Gain understanding of the general value of the knowledge of ancient history and culture as a means of interpreting the human experience in general and the origins of modern societies.
- Have a good understanding of the concept of primary and secondary source.
- Define and master the basic events of Roman History, from the foundation of Rome to the fall of the Empire.
- Become familiar with the daily life, values and social attitudes of the ancient Romans during the Republic and the Empire.
- Demonstrate familiarity with some cultural issues typical of the period studied: the impact of Greek culture, the role of women, the importance and functionality of Roman religion, general features of art, Roman architecture and structural engineering, relations with non-roman populations, the frontiers and their cultural function.
- Demonstrate familiarity with some institutional features of Ancient Rome: the administrative organization, the role of the different institutions, the role of the army, the *cursus honorum*, the structure of the provinces.
- Trace the origins of many aspects of Western European culture and of contemporary Western society in general.

- Gain understanding of the political, religious and intellectual heritage of Roman society and use it as a means of interpreting the human experience through history.
- Recognize and understand how much of the English language is affected by Latin vocabulary.

Besides, the course has two main focuses: Institutions and Culture.

Students will have the possibility to observe and study the different solutions that the Roman civilization gave to the problem of political, administrative, fiscal and judiciary organization and to understand the origin of several issues concerning contemporary Europe, through the great cultural experience of the Roman world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of particular social practices and cultural systems as constructed by the ancient Roman society.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to engage people living in today's societies through knowledge of the cultural heritage left by ancient Roman civilization.
- Demonstrate openness to difference and critical reflection when encountering values and beliefs that are different from their own.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the general value of ancient history and culture as a means of interpreting human experience and the origins of contemporary societies.
- Identify possible causes and consequences of significant historical events of the Roman civilization and demonstrate knowledge of the origins of many aspects of the European culture and of contemporary Western societies.
- Explain processes of change over time as well as historical continuity within a chronological and geographical framework.
- Understand and formulate historical argument, discussion and reasoning, evaluate historical evidence, and assess historical interpretations.

GRADES AND EXAMS

Your grade will be determined by **2 in-class exams (mid-term and final)**, on **2 papers**, **1 oral presentation**, **attendance and class participation**, proportionally broken as follows:

Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Papers	20% The deadlines for the papers are Apr. 6 and May. 20.
Class Participation	20% (Class participation, attendance, class site visits, oral presentation)

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

A Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

B Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

C Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

D Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

F Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester. Late work lowers 1 letter grade.

VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.

CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

Safety

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/or the Resident Director for more information.

Students with Disabilities

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

For online classes, the teacher will track attendance through the Canvas portal.

Important: Exams

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. **Dates of mid-term and final exams can not be changed**. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in failure of the course.

COPYRIGHT AND PRIVACY LAWS

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

CHANGES- Important

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

CLASS CALENDAR

Class		Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	Feb. 24	Class and syllabus presentation.	
	Feb. 26	Introduction to the course.	
Week 2	Mar. 2	Review on Archaic Rome	Le Glay, Chap. 2.
	Mar. 4	Review on the Republican Age	Le Glay, Chap. 3-4-5.
From March 9 to 12		Classes were suspended	
Week 3	Mar. 16-20	From Julius Caesar to Augustus: the fall of the Republic and the beginning of a new era	Le Glay, Chap. 6, pp.157-184; Chap. 7.
		Historical sources on Roman Empire.	Cherry D., <i>The Roman World a sourcebook</i> . Lewis N., <i>Roman Civilization: Sourcebook 2, The Empire</i> . Shelton J.-A., <i>As the Romans did. A source book in Roman social history</i> . Suetonius, <i>De Vita Caesarum (The Twelve Ceasars)</i> .
	Mar. 18	Online session	
Week 4	Mar. 23-27	The Age of Augustus -1	Le Glay, Chap. 8, pp.207-256. Galinsky, <i>The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Augustus</i> .

Class		Topic	Reading Assignment
		The Age of Augustus -2 Art & Architecture. History, Poetry and Philosophy. Virtual visit to Fiesole.	Livy; Virgil, <i>The Aeneid</i> ; Horace; Tibullus; Propertius; Ovid.
	Mar. 25	Online session	
Week 5	Mar. 30 – Apr. 3	The Julio Claudian Emperors -1	Le Glay, Chap. 9, pp. 257-87.
		The Julio Claudian Emperors -2	Le Glay, Chap. 9, pp. 257-87.
	Apr. 1	Online session	
Week 6	Apr. 6-10	Crisis of 68-69 A.D. and the Flavian Emperors	Le Glay, Chap. 10, pp. 289-317.
		The Flavian Emperors	Le Glay, Chap. 10, pp. 289-317.
	Apr. 8	Online session	
Week 7	Apr. 14-17	The “Good Emperors” -1 •	Le Glay, Chap. 11, pp. 319-403.
		The “Good Emperors” -2	Le Glay, Chap. 11, pp. 319-403.
	Apr. 15	Online session	
Week 8	Apr. 20-24	Make-ups and mid-review. Deadline for mid-term papers	
	Apr. 22	MID-TERM EXAM	
Week 9	Apr. 27-30	Daily Life in Imperial Rome	Video + readings assigned in class
		Roman Literature Under the Empire: Poetry, History and Philosophy	Tacitus, Pliny the Elder, Pliny the Younger, Seneca, Lucanus, Juvenal, Martial, Petronius, Apuleius.
		Virtual tour of Roman “Florentia” and site visit to Palazzo Vecchio, Roman Theatre excavations	
	Apr. 29	Online session	
Week 10	May 4-8	African and Syrian Emperors: the Severans and their successors	Le Glay: Chap. 12, pp. 405-435.

Class		Topic	Reading Assignment
		The Crisis of the 3 rd Century	Le Glay: Chap. 13, pp. 439-455; Chap. 14, pp. 457-470.
	May 6	Online session	
Week 11	May 11-15	The Restoration and its Failure: Diocletian and the Tetrarchy	Le Glay: Chap. 15, pp. 471-75.
		The Age of Constantine & his Family Different Institutions (Central Government, Army, Territorial Authorities)	Le Glay: Chap. 15, pp. 477-484. Le Glay: Chap. 16, pp. 485-502.
	May 13	Online session	
Week 12	May 18-22	A different socio-economic world (Cities and Municipal Life) Between Paganism and Christianity	Le Glay: Chap. 17, pp. 503-521. Le Glay: Chap. 18, pp. 523-544.
		The 4 th and 5 th Centuries. Barbarians on the frontier: the end of the Roman World? Final review and Deadline for final papers.	Le Glay: Chap. 19, pp. 545-557. Gibbon E., <i>The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> , Saunders, 2005 (readings from).
	May 20	Online session	
Week 13	May 25-28	FINAL EXAM (date to be announced)	