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CLAS 1280: INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT ROMAN CULTURE

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to this course on Roman culture and civilization!

This first-year university course is intended for anyone who wants a general overview of Roman civilization and culture: university students who are enrolled in a degree program and members of the community at large. There are no prerequisites, apart from your interest in the subject and a willingness to devote time and energy to the topic.

This course is described in The University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar* as follows:

Ancient archaeological and literary evidence (in English translation) is the basis for a survey of the major social, political, religious, intellectual, artistic and literary institutions and achievements of the Romans, from the period of the monarchy to the onset of the Middle Ages. The Romans are studied in the context of the ancient Mediterranean world but also with reference to their continuing contributions to world civilization.

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter link in your course website.

COURSE GOALS

This course will introduce you to ancient Roman society. Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- outline the geography, mythology, political and cultural history, art, and literature of Rome;
- discuss the connection of ancient Roman civilization with ancient Rome and our modern society;
- describe what life was like in ancient Rome;

- compare and contrast a range of Roman artifacts with their presentation in the *Aeneid*;
- construct an in-depth profile of a prominent Roman personality;
- analyze primary documents related to an aspect of Roman history.

You will also develop an appreciation of the complexity and wealth of the culture through the course materials and accompanying internet resources.

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COURSE MATERIALS

Unit instructional content

These course materials correspond to the lectures and discussion that on-campus students get in the classroom. They are designed to provide guidance and support to help you through the course.

In other course materials you will find the assignments, information, and help that you would otherwise receive in the classroom.

Required textbooks

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

There is one required textbook:

1. Ward, Allen M., F. M. Heichelheim and Cedric A Yeo. (2014) *A History of the Roman People* 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

There will also be other required readings in the course which will be made available online through the course website. In addition to the assigned reading for each unit, optional reading will be suggested that may be useful.

OPTIONAL

Optional reading

Each unit includes a section headed Supplementary Reading that lists books that are especially interesting or useful. The books mentioned in these sections are optional—none of them is required. These books are generally available from the Dafoe Library at The University of Manitoba or the Dafoe librarian can order the books for you through the interlibrary document delivery service. Many of them are also available online as ebooks through the Dafoe Library (you will need to log in through a University of Manitoba computer, or have your library card and password handy, to view them).

Internet resources

You will find many Internet web sites about ancient Rome, and some may appear as suggested readings or resources in the units. That said, many internet resources on Rome were not created by scholars, and will often contain erroneous, or only partial information, even if they were created with the best of intentions. Be sure to check who created the website you are consulting, and for what purpose. If the page was not created by a scholar in the field, or does not cite its sources, or does not list its contributors at all, be especially careful or avoid using the source entirely. There are plenty of other good sources out there. Here are a few websites that provide good content for CLAS 1280 as a whole:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

This site contains images and texts (in English translation and in the original) from ancient Greece and Rome.

<http://www.stoa.org>

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COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is comprised of nine units. Each unit contains self-test questions to help you review the material. An assignment is to be completed and submitted at the end of units 3, 6, and 9.

- Unit 1** Italy and the Early Republic
- Unit 2** Rome and Her Neighbours (396-146 BCE)
- Unit 3** The Roman Empire and Aristocratic Competition (146-63 BCE)
- Unit 4** The Crisis of the Late Republic (60 BCE-19 CE)
- Unit 5** Roman Family, Culture, and Social Structure
- Unit 6** The Augustan Golden Age (30 BCE–14 CE)
- Unit 7** The Julio-Claudians (23 CE - 68 CE)
- Unit 8** The Roman Empire at its Height (69 CE - 180 CE)
- Unit 9** Third Century Change and the Influence of Rome on Western Culture

A note on dating

In keeping with recent practice in Classics scholarship, in this manual BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era) are used in place of BC and AD, respectively.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The requirements for this course consist of three assignments and a final examination. If you work through the course materials systematically and follow the instructions, you should have no difficulty.

Distribution of marks

Assignments and exam	Value
Assignment 1: Primary Document Analysis Related to Spartacus' Revolt	20%
Assignment 2: Augustan Rome	20%
Assignment 3: Emperor Project	25%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

Please note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Grading Scale

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Please note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are three assignments in the course. You are required to submit all three assignments by the due dates listed below. An assignment is to be completed and submitted at the end of units 3, 6, and 9. Your assignments will be graded and sent back to you so that you may benefit from the comments for your next assignment.

Ensure the assignment **arrives by the due date**. Late assignments will not be accepted unless otherwise arranged with the instructor beforehand. The Instructor Welcome Letter will identify you instructor's policy on late assignments.

- **Note:** If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor well in advance of the due date, for we cannot guarantee that the instructor will accept late assignments.
- **Note:** Due dates listed in the course schedule.

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FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare an exam location.** The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

There will be three parts to the final exam. The first section will give you a list of 10 terms, of which you will choose and identify 6. Each identification should be about 2-3 sentences in length. The second section of the exam will be an image, drawn from the images discussed either in the textbook or in the course manual. You will be given 6 images and asked to identify and discuss the significance of 4 of them. The final portion of the examination will give you 5 essay questions, of which you will have to choose and answer 2. The essays will ask you to draw on your knowledge of Roman society more broadly and bring together ideas from multiple units. The final examination will have this grading structure:

Essay & Short Answers	Value
Short Answers	24%
Images	16%
Essay #1	30%
Essay #2	30%

You can prepare for the final examination by doing the self-answer questions and assignments carefully and by working through the sample examination questions below.

General guidelines for assignment and exam preparation

A word of caution about the assignments and the final examination

Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, because the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open-book, they do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires nor are they limited to a specific time period. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination.

Please keep all this in mind as you prepare for the examination. If your course has a sample exam or practice questions, use them to prepare for the examination by setting a time limit and not having any books available. Pay careful attention to the description of the type of questions that will be on your final examination. Preparing for multiple-choice questions involves a different type of studying than preparing for essay questions. Do not underestimate the stress involved in writing a time-limited examination.

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Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (DE) STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

Two-way communication

Communication between student and instructor is important in independent study courses. The first and most important way of communicating is through this course website. Since there is no opportunity for face-to-face classroom contact, directions, notes, and other instructional aids are provided in this manual. You can also communicate through the assignments that you send in for evaluation. Your work will be graded and returned with comments; these will offer encouragement and, where necessary, suggestions for improvement. Any problems that are not solved by this exchange should be addressed directly to us. If the problem is especially urgent, contact your instructor (contact information and a list of office hours appear in the letter of introduction that you received with the course materials).

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