

# CLAS 252/HIST 252

## Roman History

**T**his course provides an introductory survey of the political history of ancient Rome. There will be a focus on Roman republican history (510 to 27 BC) and on the early principate (27 BC to AD 284). A glance at the mythical past and the regal period (753 to 510 BC) as well as an outlook at the transformation of the empire in Late Antiquity (AD 6<sup>th</sup> century) will frame the course. At the end of the course, students will have basic knowledge of the main historical issues such as the gradual growth of the city state and its empire and of the structure of its political constitution. They will have learnt not only the names of outstanding persons and the dates of key events, but also have been acquainted with the different kinds of sources, on which our ‘knowledge’ is based. They will also have some idea of the fragility and limitation of this ‘knowledge’, which may be due to the distortions of ancient authors, the complete lack of sources, the inadequacies of sweeping models, or the prejudice of modern perspectives. At any rate, the course should prepare them to enter deeper into crucial but controversial issues such as the driving force of Roman imperialism, the (relative) stability of the Roman state, and the eventual disintegration of the empire.

<b>Instructor</b>	Professor Altay Coşkun ML 228, ext. 38903 <a href="mailto:acoskun@uwaterloo.ca">acoskun@uwaterloo.ca</a> Office hours: 2:40-3:30, MWF and on appointment
<b>Term/Time/Location</b>	Fall 2009 / 1:30-2:20, MWF / Room: RCH 308
<b>Required Texts</b>	Christopher S. Mackay: <i>Ancient Rome: A Military and Political History</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. A selection of further texts (a few book chapters and articles, but some more ancient sources in English translation) will be made available in ACE.
<b>Course Requirements</b>	Midterm test (Friday, October 23) ..... 20% Course essay (due Friday, November 13) ..... 35% Final examination (place and time tba) ..... 45%
<b>Course Website</b>	In ACE
<b>Special Notes</b>	Hard copies of the essay are to be submitted to the course instructor or the departmental office (ML 224) by the due date. Essays submitted late will be penalized 5% per day. <i>All</i> components of the course requirements (the midterm, the essay, and the final exam) must be completed in order to obtain a passing grade. Marked midterms and essays may be picked up in ML 224 during regular office hours (please bring your Watcard).

### Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to convey a basic knowledge of the political and military events as well as of the political structure and culture of ancient Rome (students interested in social history should consider taking CLAS 202 in a later term). Besides, students will be familiarized with some examples of how historical methodology may be applied to antiquity. The writing assignment (course essay) challenges the students with a central question of Roman History, thereby initiating the development of their methodological and analytical skills, as well as training their capability of communicating their research results. By the end of this course, students should be able to undertake more advanced studies in Roman history such as CLAS 352.

### Expectations in the classroom:

Everyone in the classroom is expected to do his/her best so that we enjoy an atmosphere of mutual

respect and are able to concentrate on our academic issues. While cell phones and iPods are banned completely, laptops are permitted, as long as they are used to take notes of the lecture, but should be used only in the last two or three rows of the classroom. As a matter of courtesy, you should inform the instructor, if you have to enter late or leave early for any good reason. Questions during the lecture are permitted (and even appreciated), but have to be limited to two or three per session. Others questions or comments are of course permitted after the lecture, and the instructor will try to address those which seem to be of broader interest in one of the next sessions.

### **Test/exam regulations:**

Students are encouraged to consult the University examination regulations for information about various rules governing the conduct of midterms and final examinations. Makeup tests/exams or alternative assignments will only be given when the student offers a *documented medical reason* for missing the test, exam, or deadline for the essay respectedly. Other reasons, such as travel plans, do not constitute a valid reason for being granted a makeup. It is also vital that students realize their own responsibility in informing the instructor promptly (preferably prior to missing the test/exam, but certainly no more than 24 hours after it).

### **University Policies on Academic Integrity and Student Discipline and Grievance:**

**Academic Integrity:** in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information].

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)], to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

Students are encouraged to check the website "Avoiding Academic Offences". It is important for students to be aware that one may commit plagiarism inadvertently, through ignorance of appropriate citation methods, so checking this website prior to submitting a paper in any course is to the student's advantage: [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

## Tentative Lecture Schedule & Readings, Fall 2009

Week	Main subjects covered	Required Readings*
(1) Sept 14 – 18	General Introduction: What is Roman History, Why Study It? Periodization and chronology, sources and methods Mythical past, prehistory, beginnings of Rome; regal period	Mackay ch. 1 and pp. 367-372; handout 'periodization'
(2) Sept 21 – 25	<i>Regifugium</i> and the establishment of the Republic Social unrest in the Early Republic: <i>patricii</i> and <i>plebei</i> Roman <i>census</i> and <i>classes</i> , electoral practices	Mackay chs. 1-2
(3) Sept 28 – Oct 2	Rome, Latium, Gauls, Central Italy in the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Centuries Rome, the Samnitic Wars, the Tarentine War, and Pyrrhus The First Punic War <b>Suggestion: let your instructor know the topic of your essay (email: acoskun@uwaterloo.ca)</b>	Mackay chs. 3-4
(4) Oct 5-9	The Second Punic War Roman warfare in the Hellenistic World, 215-146 BC Roman Italy, the Roman Empire, and the Gracchi	Mackay chs. 4-5; 7-8; 12
(5) Oct 14 – 16	(Oct. 12: Thanksgiving) Social War and Civil War The post-Sullan Republic	Mackay chs. 7-9
(6) Oct 19 – 23	Pompey, Caesar, and the fall of the Republic Cicero and the political culture of the Late Republic* <b>MIDTERM TEST Fr., 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. (50 mins)</b>	Mackay chs. 9-10; 12
(7) Oct 26 – 30	The heritage of Caesar and the continuation of the Civil War From triumvirate to principate: the rule of Augustus <b>Deadline: send your instructor a note including the title of your essay, the main source(s) you are dealing with, and your bibliography (email: acoskun@uwaterloo.ca)</b>	Mackay chs. 11 and 13
(8) Nov 2 – 6	Augustus' search for a successor The Julio-Claudian dynasty	Mackay chs. 13-14
(9) Nov 9 – 13	Year of the Four Emperors and the Flavian dynasty The Adoptive Emperors: a golden age? <b>SUBMISSION OF ESSAYS DUE Fr., 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	Mackay chs. 15-16
(10) Nov 16 – 20	The Severan dynasty. The <i>constitutio Antoniniana</i> and the history of Roman citizenship Crises of the Empire in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century Diocletian, the tetrarchy, and the prosecution of the Christians	Mackay chs. 17; 19-21
(11) Nov 23 – 27	The usurpations of Constantine and the triumph of Christianity Institutional aspects of the Principate and the Later Roman Empire	Mackay chs. 18; 21-22
(12) Nov 30 – Dec 4	Outlook on the later Roman Empire until the reign of Justinian Discussion of paradigms: 1) <i>principatus</i> – <i>dominatus</i> ; 2) fall, decline, disintegration, transformation of the Roman Empire	Mackay chs. 23-24; Epilogue; pp. 357-364 (chronological table)
Sat., 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec. by Dec. 14	Question time and general discussion <b>FINAL EXAMINATION (2 hrs)</b>	Mackay and all course material completely

**Note** \*: Some chapters overlap with the subjects of different weeks, but repeated reading is rewarding and recommendable. For the most part, some additional required reading is made available in ACE two or more days before the relevant lecture. Be sure you do not miss it, for the material is also important for the test/exam!

## Guidelines for the Composition of the Essay

The essay is due on **Friday, November 13, by 1:30 pm**, but you should decide on the topic no later than week 3 and have gathered the bibliography by week 7, to make sure that you finish in time, and to give your instructor the opportunity to assist you, in case you do need help to organise your work. The essay should be about 8-10 pages long (typed, letter size 12 points, double-spaced, with standard margins; about 2000-2500 words). It must show that you have consulted a variety of scholarly literature beyond the course notes or text, i.e. at least 5 book chapters or journal articles (though 4 are admissible, if you include two items written in any language other than English). You find a detailed bibliography at the end of Mackay's book (pp. 377-384), with some additional or corrective information on my handouts that will be made accessible to you in due course in ACE. Besides, also consult the relevant chapters in the *Cambridge Ancient History* (CAH). You should also have a look at encyclopaedias specializing in the ancient world such as *Brill's New Pauly* (BNP) or *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (OCD) on as many issues as possible, and take into account some of the more recent bibliographical references provided there. I would expect you to quote no less than three of such articles, but clearly not to rely on a generalist encyclopaedia.

You further have to make sure that you have access to the scholarly literature in time; it might be that you have to order an inter-library-loan. Do not hesitate to ask the library staff for any assistance you need to get hold of the literature you want to use. Please, be aware that others in the class also need to use the same books, so returning them as soon as you are through would be much appreciated. Note that you must cite the scholarly works that you draw on appropriately, preferably in footnotes, though other forms are admissible, as long as you are consistent. You will also have to study some primary material (i.e., ancient sources in translation) and reflect this in your paper. Ideally, you will base your main argument on one or an appropriate selection of them.

You are encouraged to discuss any issue of Roman History with your mates. You need not be afraid of discussing matters concerning your essay with others, as long as your judgement remains critical and independent, and the composition of the essay your individual work. If you should have shared some of your more original arguments with s.o. writing on the same topic, and you should even agree on them, perhaps give credit to this in the foreword or initial footnote – which in fact is good scholarly practice.

**Before embarking on your essay, you are urged to consult the essay guide for Classical Studies** composed by Professor Sheila Ager, which sets out the expectations for an essay and offers a lot of helpful examples: <http://www.classics.uwaterloo.ca/essays.htm>.

### Suggested Topics

**Note:** You must choose a topic from this list, unless you come up with another topic (title and bibliography) AND this is agreed explicitly by the instructor via email. If you want to design your own headline, you may take the suggested title as subtitle.

- 1) What was the driving force of Roman expansions?
- 2) Do all of the Punic Wars reveal the imperialistic nature of Roman foreign policy?
- 3) What does Roman demography contribute to the study of Roman republican history?
- 4) Was the fall of the Roman Republic inevitable?
- 5) Does Augustan Rome deserve the qualification *res publica reperta*?
- 6) Did Augustus intend to be worshipped as a god?
- 7) Was the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the happiest time in ancient Mediterranean History?
- 8) Had the Christianization of the empire an impact on its disintegration?

## A Final Note

Whenever you **email your instructor**, do not forget to mention the **subject “Roman History”**. In times in which junk mails abound, emails without recognizable subject (and potentially unknown sender) may well be deleted without reading them. Relevant questions are welcome, but before you ask them please make sure that the answer is not already in these course outlines or in the material provided in ACE.