

CLAS 105

Roman History and Society

TRIMESTER 2 2016





**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
*SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES***

CLASSICS PROGRAMME

***CLAS 105
ROMAN HISTORY AND SOCIETY
20 POINTS***

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures are held on Monday, Tuesday and Friday 4:10 – 5pm in HU LT 323 (Hunter Building).

Tutorials will start in the second week of the course and will be held most weeks. Check the Programme of Lectures and Tutorials on the Blackboard site for detailed information. Tutorial groups will be assigned during the first week of the course. You must sign up for a tutorial by way of MyAllocator (<https://student-sa.victoria.ac.nz>). Any problems or questions, please contact Hannah in OK508.

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Prof. Jeffrey Tatum

Office & hours: OK515 at three on Fridays or (gladly) by appointment.

Telephone & email: 04-463-5846 / jeff.tatum@vuw.ac.nz

Tutors:

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be posted on the Programme notice board on the FIFTH floor of OLD KIRK. A notice giving examination times and places for all courses taught in the Classics Programme will also be posted when this information is available. Other communication will be by way of Blackboard's email service: consequently it is a responsibility of each student to check his or her university email account regularly.

Prescription

The history of Rome from its origins to its fall – by way of a fast moving survey concentrating on Roman imperialism, republican ideologies, the overthrow of the republic by Caesar and Augustus, and the difficulties of coping with emperors. Special attention is given to ancient literary sources and the problems they throw up.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. possess a basic knowledge of the major events of the late Roman Republic and early Imperial periods
2. possess and understand the fundamental vocabulary of Roman political institutions and social relationships
3. when presented with particular case studies, analyse varying ancient sources and be able to distinguish between them and posit reasons for the differences
4. apply theories of causation to historical events, taking into account the cultural specifics of late Republican and early Imperial Rome
5. contrast Roman governmental and social systems with those operating in New Zealand at the present
6. present their arguments in a logically coherent and literate form, progressing from simple description to complex exposition.

Teaching format

The course will be taught by way of a mixture of lectures and tutorials, the latter of which will involve discussion, sometimes in small groups, and regular quizzes.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

Workload

Students are expected to spend, at a minimum, an average of 12 hours per week on this course, including preparing for classes and tutorials and attending them. In other words, students should expect to attend 3 hours each week in lectures and 1 hour each week in a tutorial – supplemented with 8 hours or reading or writing or other suitable preparations. This workload will naturally increase somewhat when students are preparing for the final examination or completing the essay assignment. Over the course of the term each student should expect to devote approximately 200 hours.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a combination of internal assessment (40%) and a final examination (60%).

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p>Tutorial assignments: there will be a brief quiz at the first tutorial; thereafter, at each tutorial you will hand in two questions pertinent to the topic of the meeting. If you complete five of these assignments, you will receive full credit toward 20% of your final mark. If you fail to complete five assignments, you will receive no credit for this component of your final mark.</p>	20	1, 2, 5	Various
2	<p>Essay: Each student must submit an essay of 1500-2000 words (including references). The particulars of the essay project are explained on the Blackboard Website (go to Course Resources and read the item entitled Essay Assignment): there you will find the instructions for the assignment as well as the primary and secondary sources you will need in order to complete it. You will also find guidance in citing ancient and modern evidence. Read these instructions carefully – and follow them closely. The essay project is designed to help you to learn how to interpret ancient sources of various kinds, how to read and engage with modern scholarship, and how to construct a sound and literate argument.</p> <p>All students must submit an essay by September 9. This essay will be marked very closely for content and for style, with copious annotation. Students will then have the option of either accepting their initial mark or revising their essays, most effectively by taking advantage of the detailed comments accompanying their initial drafts. Revised essays must be turned in by October 7.</p> <p>Students who revise their essays will receive the higher of the two marks. The original annotated draft of the essay must be turned in along with the revised version.</p> <p>It is recommended that students produce typed essays, for the mental health of the markers. Students should consult the Classics Study Guide (available on the Blackboard site) for further guidance on the correct format for an essay in Classics.</p>	20	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	<p>9 September (first submission)</p> <p>7 October (revised submission, if desired)</p>
3	<p>Final examination: a two-hour examination to be held at a time determined by the University. The exam will consist of two parts: (i) short answers to objective questions and IDs and (ii) two essays. Sample essay questions will be distributed at the final tutorial so that students can organise their preparation around the central themes and issues of the course.</p>	60	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	As prescribed by the University

Criteria for marking: for quizzes and for the short answer section of the final exam, answers are simply correct or incorrect (e.g. in what year was Caesar assassinated? Only 44 BC is an acceptable

answer; or, what is the highest annual magistracy in the Rome? Only consul or the consulship are acceptable answers, and so forth).

As for essays, the following general expectations will be applied when marking:

A to A+ Outstanding work which displays wide knowledge, awareness of the current state of thinking on the subject, critical analysis, independence of mind, initiative, and intellectual rigour. Clearly prepared, with a well-structured argument, avoiding irrelevance. Originality is rewarded, but is not a necessary requirement.

B+ to A- Well-organised, detailed and logical work, showing a thorough understanding of the subject as taught, with evidence of additional study. There should be no significant deficiencies in competence in the subject.

C- to B Work which displays overall competence and an understanding of the basics of the subject. The answer contains reasonably good information, but there may be only limited evidence of additional, independent study. There may be insufficient discussion, and conclusions may not always be adequately supported.

D Work which displays poor and barely adequate comprehension of basic facts and principles, with significant gaps or errors of detail, some irrelevance, and poorly constructed argument; it may be largely descriptive, rather than arguing a case; or it may fail to focus properly on the question set.

E Work which displays largely inadequate understanding of basic facts and principles, with significant errors, omissions or irrelevance, and which shows a lack of grasp of the essentials of the subject.

Submission and return of work

Tutorial quizzes will be collected from students on the day. They will be marked and returned at the next tutorial.

Essays should be handed in by way of the Assignment Box (next to OK 512) along with the cover sheet provided. Written work should not be placed in the lecturer's pigeonhole or under his office door (where it may be recycled by cleaners!). The first draft of the essay is due by 5 pm on 9 September. The second draft is due by 5 pm on 7 October. Essays will be marked and returned as soon as possible, ordinarily in two to three weeks.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions for assignments can only be granted if permission is promptly sought from the course coordinator.

Extensions are usually only granted for illness (on production of a medical certificate) or for family bereavement (where production of evidence may be required). Students should note the granting of an extension and its date on their written work to avoid the possibility of being penalised for late submission. Students who miss the first due date for the first draft of the essay can hand in their essay at the second due date, but will lose the advantage of annotations that will help them in revising their essay.

Penalties

While the word limit for essays is a suggested maximum, it should not be exceeded by more than 100 words. Essays that are too long will be returned for revision and will be marked down one letter grade. If an essay is too short by more than 500 words, its mark will be reduced by one letter grade.

Assignments submitted after the due date or the date of an approved extension will be penalised. A full mark (out of 20) will be deducted for each day (including weekends) or part thereof that the assignment is overdue. Again, students who miss the first due date for the first draft of the essay can hand in their essay at the second due date, but will lose the advantage of annotations that will help them in revising their essay.

Plagiarised work will not be accepted (see statement on plagiarism on the university website).

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

For all quizzes and the final examination, students are permitted to use pens, pencils, and paper only. No computer or calculator or any other electronic device is permitted.

Set texts

D.H. Berry, *Cicero: Political Speeches* (OUP 2006).

M.T. Boatwright, D.J. Gargola, N. Lenski & R.J.A. Talbert, *The Romans: From Village to Empire*, 2nd ed. (OUP 2012).

C. Edwards, *Suetonius: Lives of the Caesars* (OUP 2000).

R. Waterfield & P.A. Stadter, *Plutarch: Roman Lives* (OUP 1999).

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from Vicbooks in the Hub (Kelburn Campus). Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended reading

Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard (where you will also find TALIS readings).

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

Students in 2015 agreed that the way the course was organised had helped them to learn. They were stimulated to learn more about the subject and were encouraged to think critically and creatively. Students also valued what they had learned from the course and they rated the quality of the course overall as excellent.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz