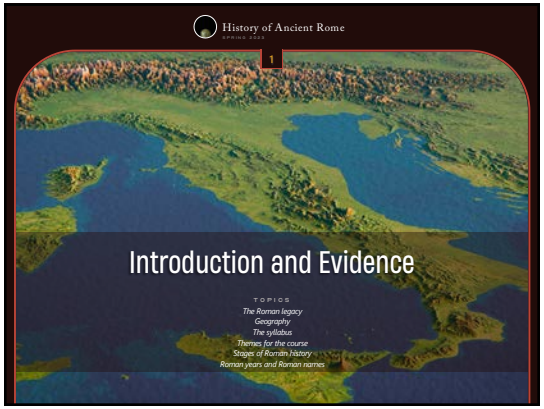
History of Ancient Rome
SPRING 2023
1
Introduction and Evidence
TOPICS
The Roman legacy
Geography
The syllabus
Themes for the course
Stages of Roman history
Roman years and Roman names

1

How are we connected to the Romans?

2

Geography
Roman history was shaped
by the shape of Italy

3

4

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ALPS
APENNINE MOUNTAINS

7

Gaul
Illyria
Italy
Corsica
Sardinia
Greece
Sicily
Africa

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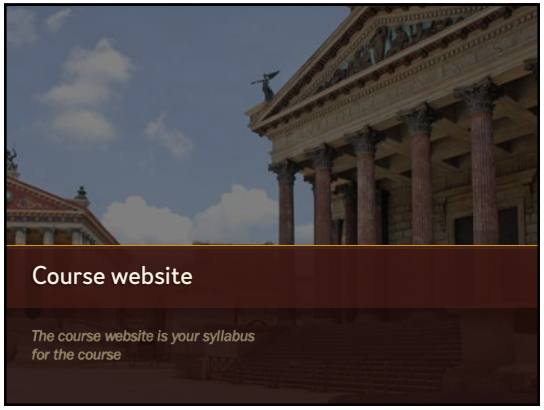
Course website
The course website is your syllabus for the course

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Stages of Roman history
There are four major stages of Roman history, but within each period Rome is constantly transforming

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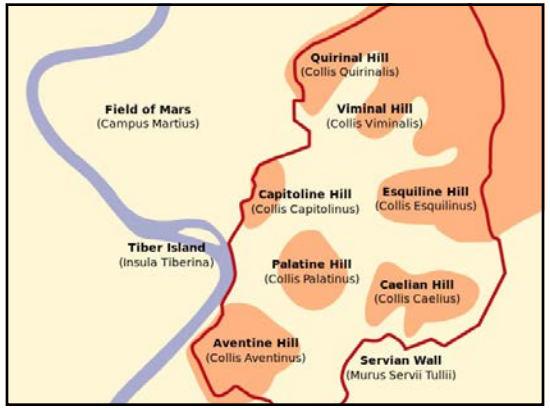
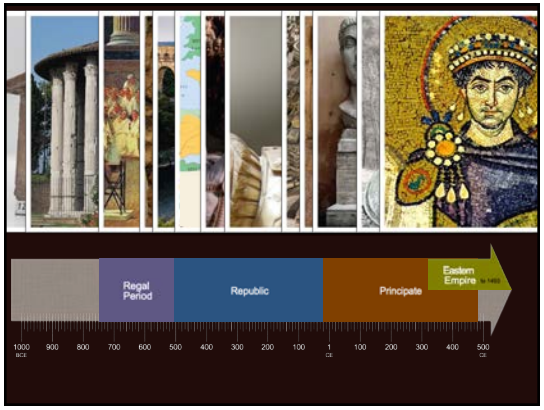

Quirinal Hill
(Collis Quirinalis)
Field of Mars
(Campus Martius)
Viminal Hill
(Collis Viminalis)
Capitoline Hill
(Collis Capitolinus)
Esquiline Hill
(Collis Esquilinus)
Tiber Island
(Insula Tiberina)
Palatine Hill
(Collis Palatinus)
Caelian Hill
(Collis Caelius)
Aventine Hill
(Collis Aventinus)
Servian Wall
(Murus Servii Tullii)

11


Regal Period
Republic
Principate
Eastern Empire
1000 900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 1 100 200 300 400 500

12

13

Themes of the course

- Why Rome?
- How Rome?
- What was the Roman idea?
- How did Romanization affect the people over whom they ruled?
- How did the acquisition of empire change the Romans?

"Can any one be so indifferent or idle as not to care to know by what means, and under what kind of government, almost the whole inhabited world was conquered and brought under the dominion of the single city of Rome?"

— POLYBIUS

14

15

ETRUSCANS
OUTER GREEKS
GREEKS
HITTITES
CARTHAGINIANS
MINOANS
ASSYRIANS
PHOENICIANS
ISRAELITES
PHILISTINES
BABYLONIANS
MEDES
BACTRIANS
SUMERIANS
PERSIANS
EGYPTIANS

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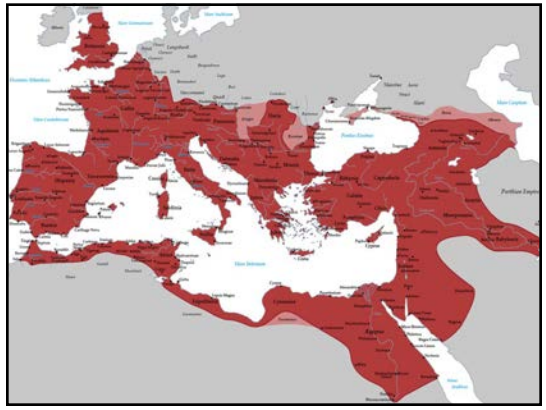

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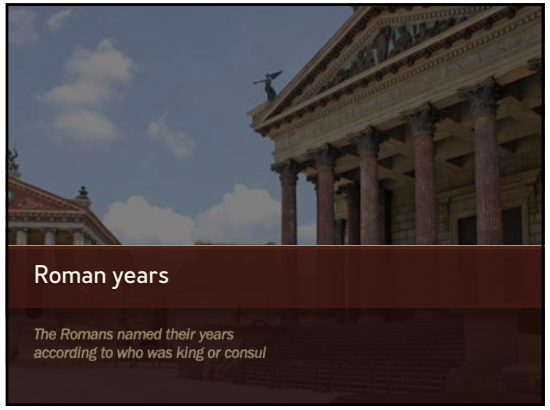
Roman years
The Romans named their years
according to who was king or consul

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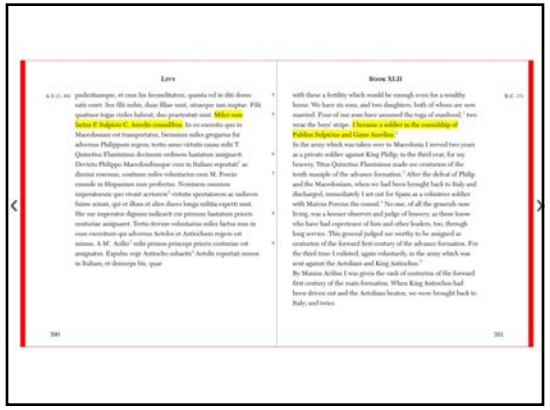
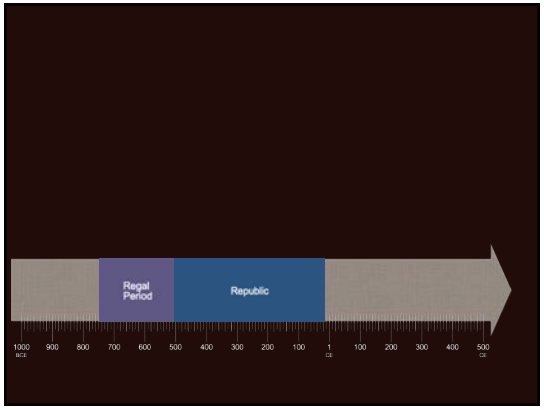


Livy

Book XLII

with these a fertility which would be enough even for a wealthy
house. We have six sons, and two daughters, both of whom are now
married. Four of our sons have assumed the toga of manhood,[1] two
wear the boys' stripe. I became a soldier in the consulship of
Publius Sulpicius and Gaius Aurelius.
In the army which was taken over to Macedonia I served two years
as a private soldier against King Philip, in the third year, for my
bravery, Titus Quinctius Flamininus made me centurion of the
tenth maniple of the advance formation.[2] After the defeat of Philip
and the Macedonians, when we had been brought back to Italy and
discharged, immediately I set out for Spain as a volunteer soldier
with Marcus Porcius the consul.[3] No one, of all the generals now
living, was a better observer and judge of bravery, as these know
who have had experience of him and other leaders, too, through
long service. This general judged me worthy to be assigned as
centurion of the forward first century of the advance formation. For
the third time I enlisted, again voluntarily, in the army which was
sent against the Aetolians and King Antiochus.[4]
By Manius Acilius I was given the rank of centurion of the forward
first century of the main formation. When King Antiochus had
been driven out and the Aetolians beaten, we were brought back to
Italy, and twice

35



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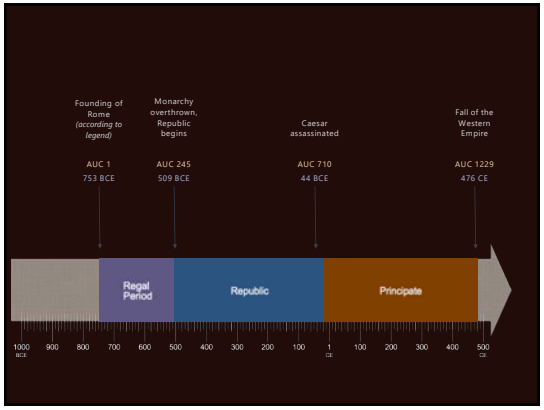
Founding of Rome
(according to legend)
AUC 1
753 BCE
Monarchy overthrown, Republic begins
AUC 245
509 BCE
Caesar assassinated
AUC 710
44 BCE
Fall of the Western Empire
AUC 1229
476 CE
Regal Period
Republic
Principate
1000 BCE
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
1 CE
100
200
300
400
500 CE

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Roman names
Roman names reflect a cultural emphasis on the family over the individual

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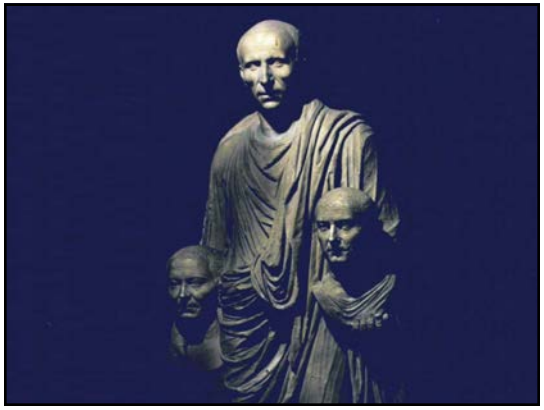

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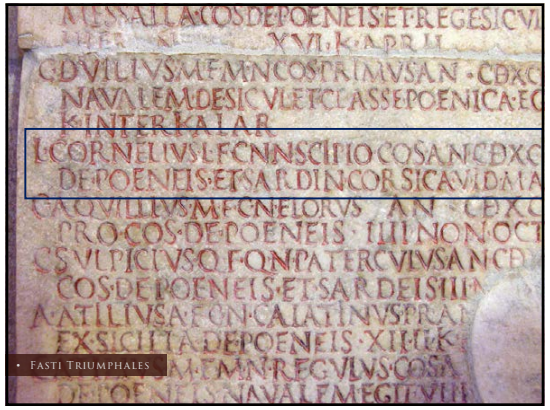
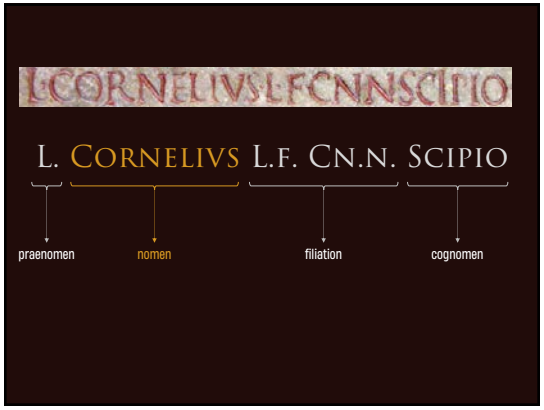
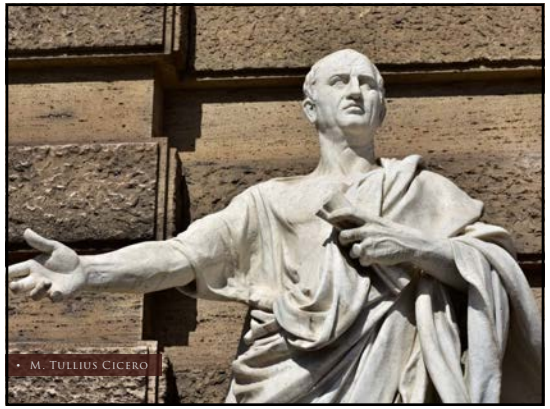

Fasti Triumphales

47


L. Cornelivs L.f. Cn.n. Scipio
praenomen
nomen
filiation
cognomen

48

49



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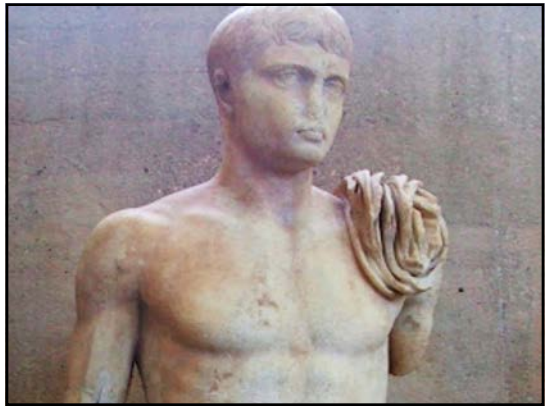
Some famous Roman names

- M. Tullius Cicero
- Ti. Sempronius Gracchus
- M. Aemilius Scaurus
- Cn. Pompeius Magnus
- M. Livius Drusus
- M. Junius Brutus
- L. Cornelius Sulla Felix
- Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius
- C. Marius
- M. Antonius
- P. Clodius Pulcher
- P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus
- P. Vergilius Maro
- Q. Horatius Flaccus
- Q. Fabius Maximus Verrucosus Cunctator

51

52



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Adoption

C. OCTAVIVS C.F.

C. IVLIVS C.F. CAESAR OCTAVIANVS

54

55

Women

IVLIA

56

57

58