


Civilizations of the Ancient World
SPRING 2025

MEETING 28

The Roman Principate

- The Roman Peace
- The Third Century Crisis
- The Rise of Christianity
- The Fall of the West



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Upcoming dates

- Monday, May 12 Essay #3 due via BlackBoard
- Tuesday, May 20 Final Exam, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 27
 - Ultimate Deadline**
 - No late papers or resubmissions for reversible deductions after this date
 - No exceptions
 - Any incompletes owing to personal emergencies must be mutually agreed before this date
- Sunday, May 18 Post your Week 15 Responses

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Four things today

- 1 The Roman Peace
- 2 The Third Century Crisis
- 3 The Rise of Christianity
- 4 The Fall of the West

3

Questions about whatever

4

The principate and later periods

5

The Early Principate

6

The Julio-Claudians: Tiberius



Ti. Caesar Augustus, 14-37

7

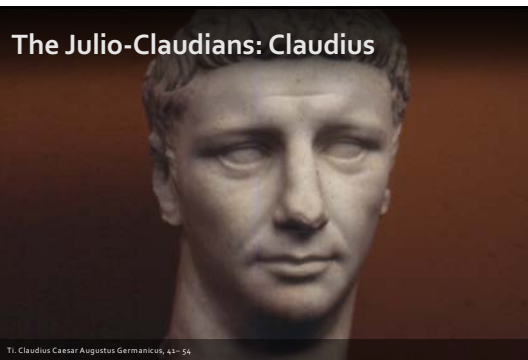
The Julio-Claudians: Caligula



C. Caesar Augustus Germanicus, 37-41

8

The Julio-Claudians: Claudius



Ti. Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, 41-54

9

The Julio-Claudians: Nero



L. Domitius Ahenobarbus → Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, 54-68

10

The Year of Four Emperors (69 CE)



Galba

Otho

Vitellius

Vespasian

11

The "Secret of the Empire"

"Welcome as the death of Nero had been in the first burst of joy, yet it had not only roused various emotions in Rome, among the Senators, the people, or the soldiery of the capital, it had also excited all the legions and their generals; for now had been divulged that secret of the empire, that emperors could be made elsewhere than at Rome."

—Tacitus

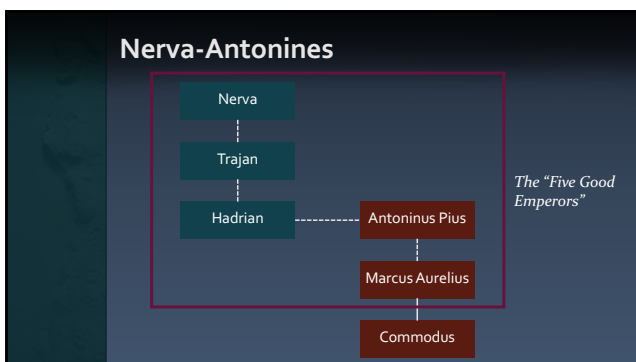
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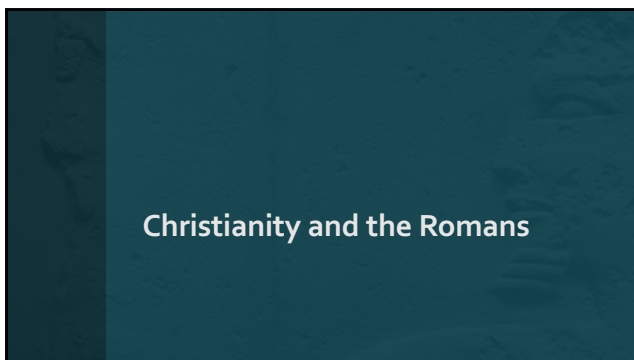
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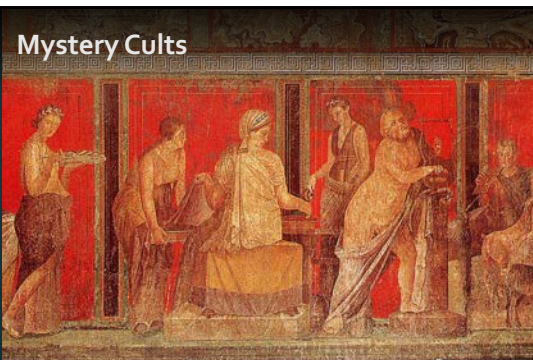
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Religious Diversity



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Mystery Cults



20

Sun-worship: Sol Invictus, Mithraism



21

Emperor Worship



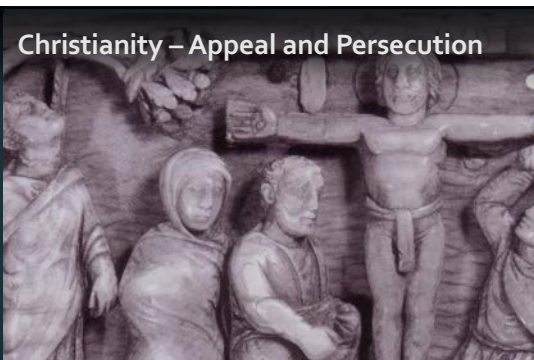
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The Jewish War



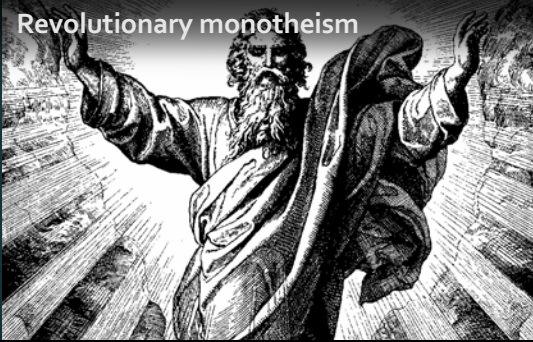
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Christianity – Appeal and Persecution



24

Revolutionary monotheism



25

The Third Century Crisis



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27

Christian Institutionalization – East & West



28

Constantine's conversion

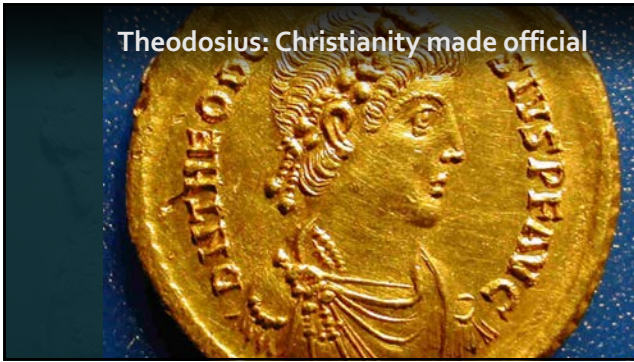


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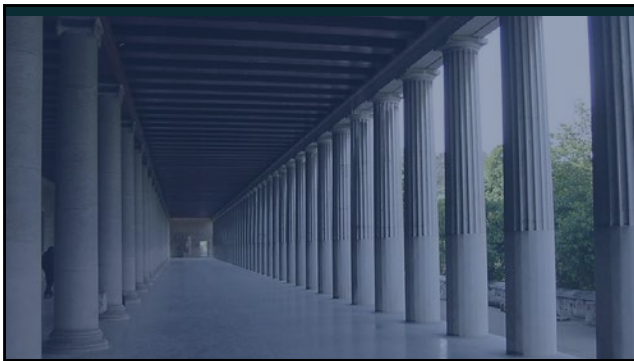
Christianity as a state religion



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