



The End of the Republic

History of Ancient Rome | Meeting #9

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, May 11
• Position Paper Due
- Thursday, May 21
• Final Exam
- Sunday, April 26
Responses for Week 10 Due

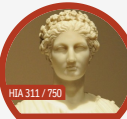
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Fall 2026 courses in Ancient History



History of Ancient Greece

The unfolding and culmination of civilization in Greece, through key transformations of Greek culture and city-states from the Bronze Age up through the Hellenization of the east.
Thurs 9:00-9:45 p.m.
Prof. Wilson 3 credits W/Res Intensive



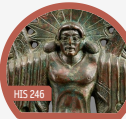
Women in Antiquity

Examination of the image, role, and status of women in Ancient Greek, Ancient Roman, and other societies as seen through the important literary works of antiquity.
Tues 6:00-6:45 p.m.
Prof. Wilson 3 credits W/Res Intensive



Classical Myth and Society

A comparison of the origins and development of classical mythology and heroic legend as religious beliefs, their relation to other mythologies, and their adaptation in literature and art from Mesopotam and Homer through the present.
Fri 12:15-1:00 p.m. (DRAFT)
Prof. Marinelli 3 credits W/ Intensive



Civilizations of the Ancient World

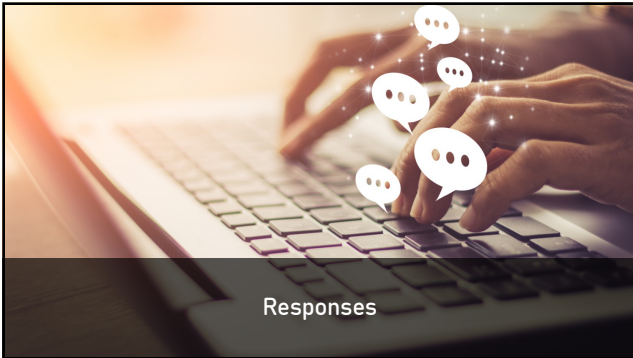
A survey of the Mediterranean world, tracing the development of civilization from Mesopotamia and Egypt to ancient Greek, City-States and the dominion of Rome.
Tues 9:00-9:45 p.m.
Prof. Wilson 3 credits

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Five things today

- Caesar as Dictator
- Caesar's assassination
- The Late Republic
- Octavian and Antony
- Cleopatra and Actium


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Responses

5

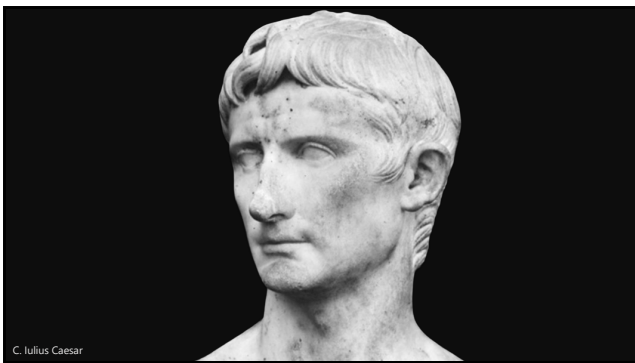
Questions about whatever



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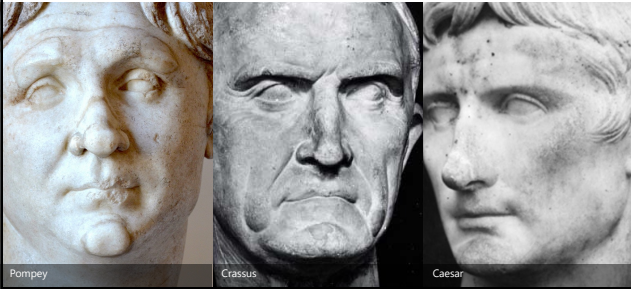


Caesar

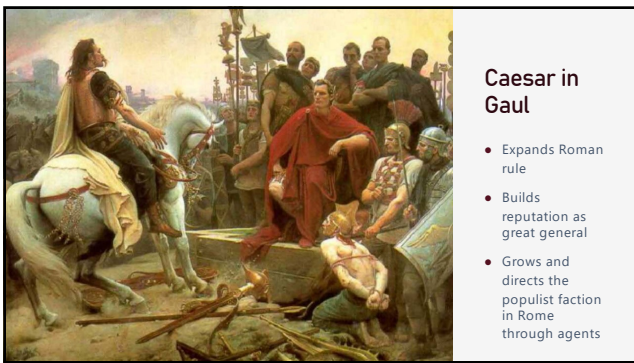
- Handsome, popular youth of a good name
 - Eldest son of a noble and ancient family
- Marius's nephew and heir
- Flees Rome during Sulla's dictatorship and proscriptions

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The "First Triumvirate"



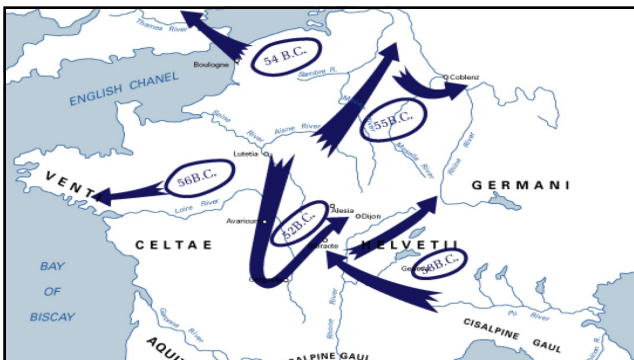
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Caesar in Gaul

- Expands Roman rule
- Builds reputation as great general
- Grows and directs the populist faction in Rome through agents

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M. Porcius Cato (Minor)


Cato the Younger

- Gifted orator
- Respected lineage
- Unifies conservatives in senate

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Caesar takes Rome

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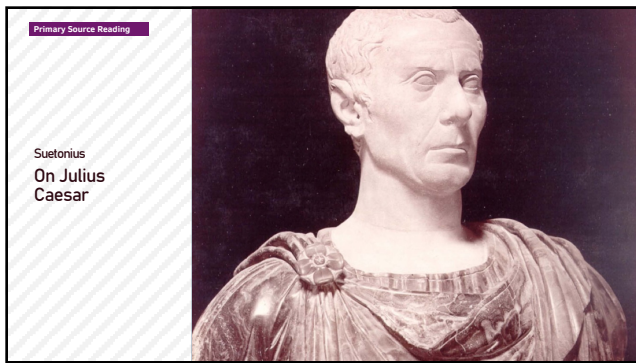
Crossing the Rubicon

- Caesar is governor of Gaul
 - Boundary between Gaul and Italy is the Rubicon River
 - Illegal for governors to leave their provinces at arms
- Caesar decides Rome needs him
- Irrevocable decision: "The die is cast"

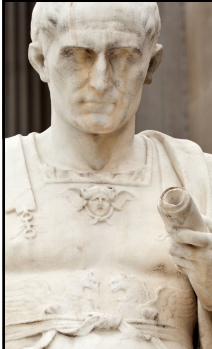
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Caesar the dictator

- Five dictatorships, four consulships between 49 and 44
- Reforms:
 - Debt relief, remissions of rent
 - Enrollment of new citizens
 - Revised calendar and related religious reforms
 - Promagistrates' terms limited
 - Distributions of grain and oil; banquets, public entertainments
- Consolidation of power:
 - Took control over elections (current and future)
 - Appointment of governors, priests
 - Increased number of magistrates and priests
- Campaigns in the Aegean, Egypt, Anatolia, Africa, Spain
- Seldom in Rome until the last 5 months

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Rome under Caesar's lieutenants

- Caesar seldom in Rome
- Governs through his agents
- M. Antonius: surly drunkard nobody
- M. Aemilius Lepidus: ineffectual toady

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The final five months in Rome

- Incident at the temple of Venus
- The incident of the the white-filleted laurel
- "I am no king, I am Caesar"
- The festival of Lupercalia (Feb 15)
- The Parthian prophecy
- Statue of Brutus the Liberator graffitied
- Caesar prepares to leave for war by the end of March

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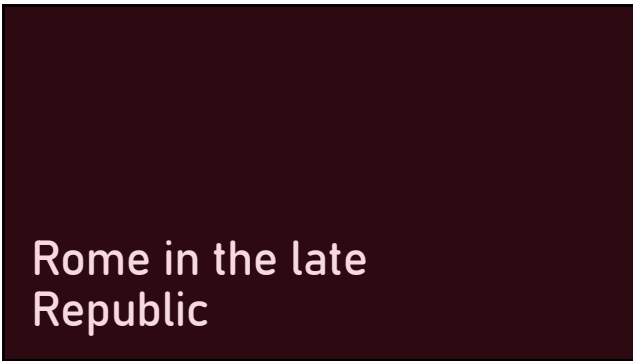
Dictator perpetuo

- Previous dictatorships required renewal
 - Set to last one year
 - Granted by senate along with many other honors
- In early 44 BCE, Caesar becomes dictator perpetuo

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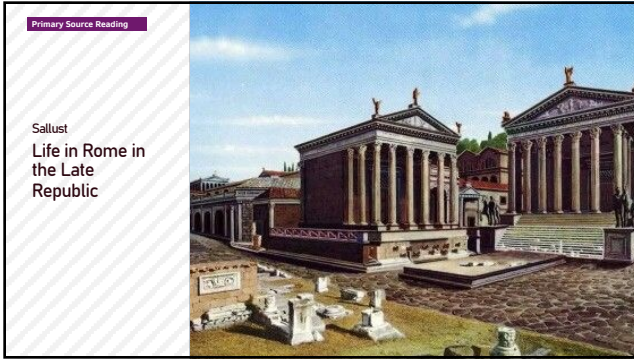
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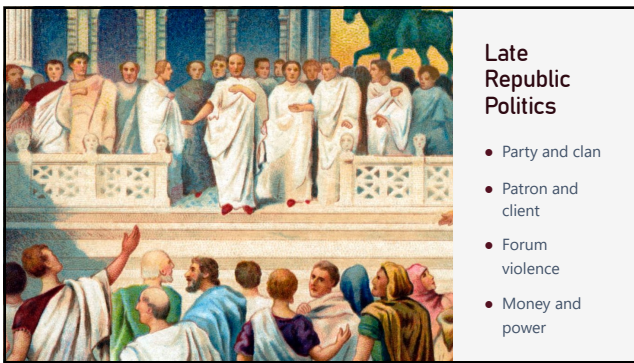
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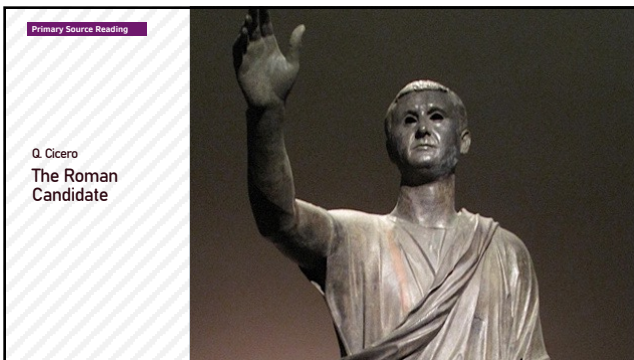
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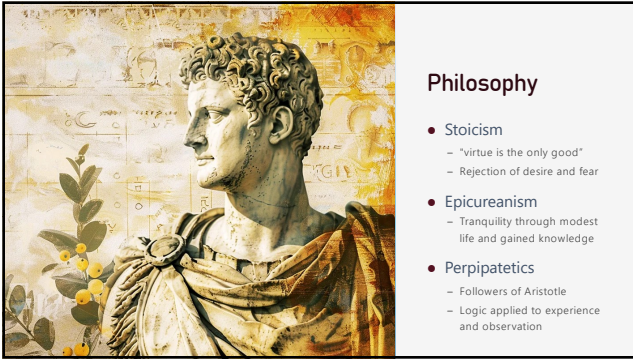
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Philosophy

- Stoicism
 - "virtue is the only good"
 - Rejection of desire and fear
- Epicureanism
 - Tranquility through modest life and gained knowledge
- Peripatetics
 - Followers of Aristotle
 - Logic applied to experience and observation

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Primary Source Reading

Cicero
Scipio's Dream

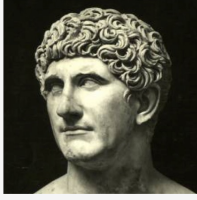


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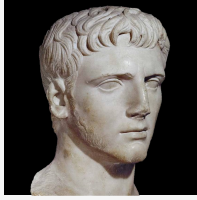
Rome after Caesar

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Caesar's successors

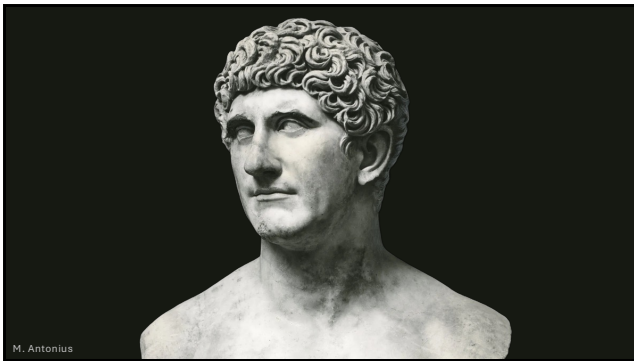


Antony



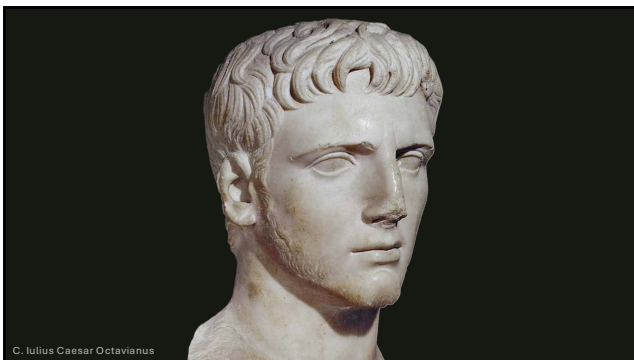
Octavian

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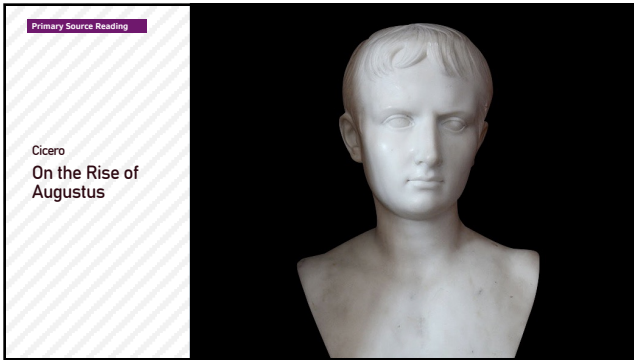
M. Antonius

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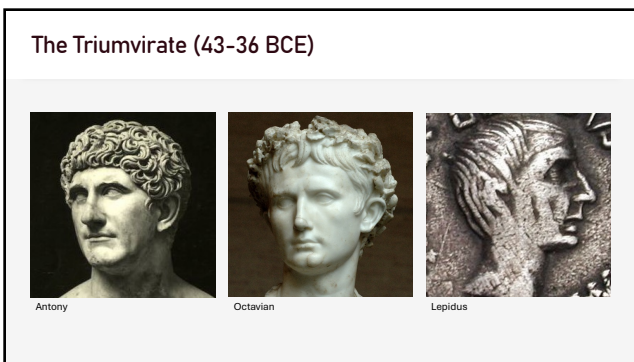


C. Iulius Caesar Octavianus

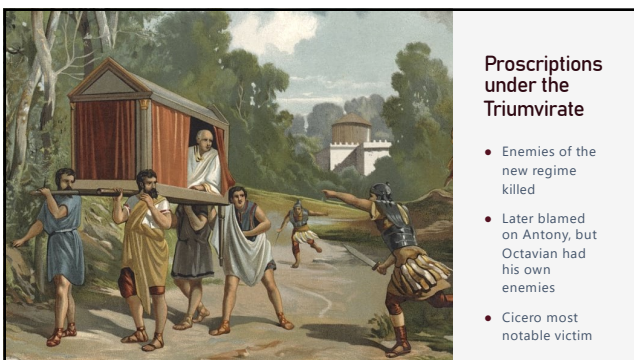
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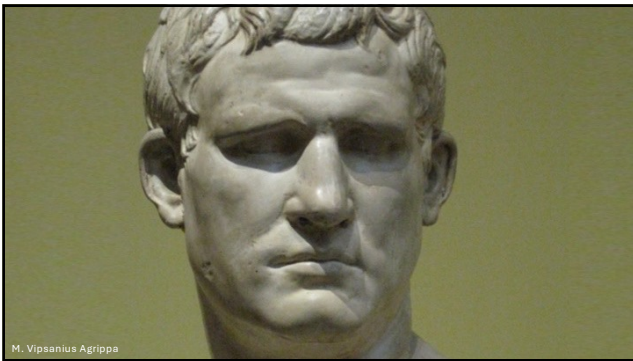
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The Defeat of the "Liberators"

- People respond with fury to Caesar's death
- Cassius and Brutus flee to Greece
- Antony and Octavian defeat their armies
 - Octavian falls ill, claims visit from Caesar in his tent
 - Cassius and Brutus fall on their swords

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Antony in the East, Octavian in Rome



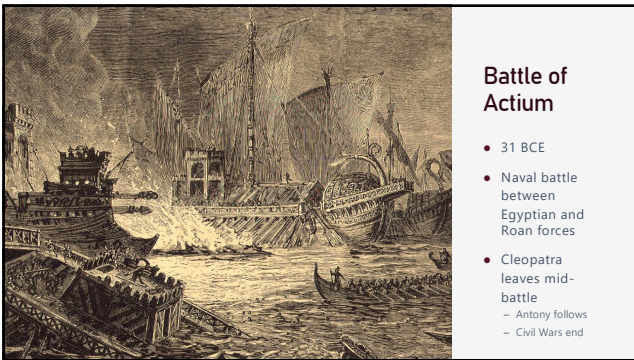
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Battle of Actium

- 31 BCE
- Naval battle between Egyptian and Roman forces
- Cleopatra leaves mid-battle
 - Antony follows
 - Civil Wars end

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Octavian after Actium

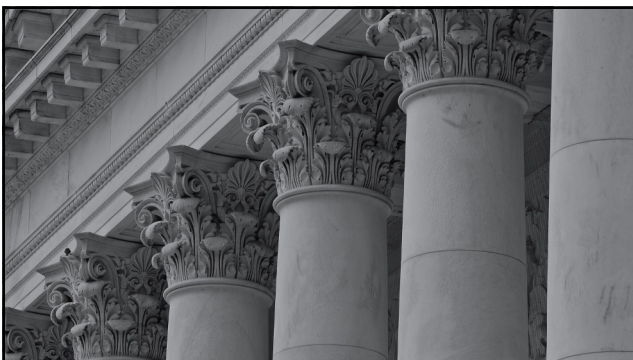
- Not title, office, or victory
- Holds uncontested authority because he is the first man in Rome

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When does the Republic end?

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