

# Schedule

For each meeting, please come into class having read and thought about the readings assigned for that class.

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Readings listed with the book icon (📖) are from the assigned textbook, Schultz, *A History of the Roman People*, 7th Edition. All other readings are linked below.

To prepare for each meeting, you need to read:

- The assigned chapter from the textbook (Schultz—these are short) (📖), and
- At least one of the primary source for that week (📄).

## 1 Introduction and Themes

Thursday, January 29

*Sign up for your first presentation*

### The Republic

## 2 Tribes and Kings

Thursday, February 5

- 📖 pp. xxvi–13, 1. Roman history: Its geographic and human foundations
- 📖 pp. 14–35, 2. Phoenicians, Greeks, and Etruscans in pre-Roman Italy
- 📖 pp. 36–51, 3. Early Rome to 500 b.c.e.

*Read one of the following:*

- 📄 On the Subject of Roman History / Dionysius
- 📄 Numa's Religious Settlement / Livy
- 📄 The Capture of the Sabine Women / Livy
- 📄 Servius Tullius's Reform of the Comitia Centuriata / Dionysius
- 📄 The Rape of Lucretia / Livy

## 3 Patrician and Plebeian

Thursday, February 19

- 📖 pp. 52–72, 4. Early Roman society, religion, and values
- 📖 pp. 73–98, 5. From tyrant kings to oligarchic republic

*Read one of the following:*

- 📄 Early Rules for Clients and Patrons / Dionysius
- 📄 Coriolanus Opposes the Plebs / Dionysius
- 📄 The Twelve Tables / Fragments
- 📄 The Roman Way of Declaring War / Livy, Dionysius
- 📄 The Defeat of the Latins / Livy

## 4 SPQR

Thursday, February 26

- 📖 pp. 99–119, 6. The Roman conquest of Italy and its impact
- \* *Dictator*, Introduction
- \* *Dictator*, Origins
- \* *Dictator*, Choice

Note: Links for the excerpts from *Dictator* are on the website.

*Read one of the following:*

- 📄 The Tribunes and their Manipulation / Dionysius
- 📄 The Mythology of the Farmer General / Cicero, Dionysius
- 📄 The Constitution of the Roman Republic / Polybius
- 📄 The Roman Manipule vs. the Macedonian Phalanx / Polybius
- 📄 The Samnites' 'Linen Legion' Remains Undaunted / Livy

## 5 The Nemesis of Carthage

Thursday, March 5

- 📖 pp. 120–136, 7. The First Punic War, northern Italy, and Illyrian pirates
- 📖 pp. 137–150, 8. War with Hannibal: The Second Punic War

*Read one of the following:*

- 📄 Hannibal / Cornelius Nepos
- 📄 The Battle of Cannae / Polybius
- 📄 The Magna Mater / Livy, Prudentius
- 📄 The Siege of Syracuse / Polybius

## 6 Acquisition of Empire

Thursday, March 12

- pp. 151–173, 9. Roman imperialism East and West
- pp. 174–192, 10. The transformation of Roman life
- pp. 193–207, 11. The great cultural synthesis

*Read one of the following:*

- The Destruction of Corinth / Polybius
- Cato Opposes Extravagance / Livy
- From The Menaechmi / Plautus
- Accounts of the Roman State Religion / Various
- Slavery in the Roman Republic / Various

*The images essay is due Monday, March 9.*

## 7 Optimates and Populares

Thursday, March 19

*Sign up for your second presentation*

- ② Before the meeting, read all of the following:

- pp. 209–224, 12. The Gracchi and the struggle over reforms
- pp. 225–240, 13. Destructive rivalries, Marius, and the Social War
- pp. 241–251, 14. Civil war and Sulla's reactionary settlement

- ③ Before the meeting, read one of the following:

- On Tiberius Gracchus / Plutarch
- On Gaius Gracchus / Appian
- Speech of Marius Against the Nobility / Sallust
- Mithridates Against Rome / Appian And Plutarch
- Drusus and his Enemies / Appian
- Sulla's Brutality / Livy, Appian

## 8 Crossing the Rubicon

Thursday, March 26

- pp. 252–273, 15. Personal ambitions: The failure of Sulla's optimate oligarchy
- pp. 274–297, 16. Caesar wins and is lost

*Read one of the following:*

- Pompey's Letter to the Senate / Sallust
- Against Catiline / Cicero
- Pompey's Conquest of the East / Appian
- The Murder of Clodius / Asconius
- On Julius Caesar / Suetonius

*The proposal is due Monday, March 23.*

## 9 End of the Republic

Thursday, April 16

- pp. 298–317, 17. The last years of the Republic
- pp. 318–342, 18. Social, economic, and cultural life in the late Republic

*Read one of the following:*

- The Assassination of Julius Caesar / Plutarch
- The Roman Candidate / Q. Cicero
- Life in Rome in the Late Republic / Sallust
- Scipio's Dream / Cicero
- On the Rise of Augustus / Cicero

*The last day to withdraw from Spring 2026 courses is Monday, April 13.*

## The Principate

### 10 Augustus, Princeps, Imperator

Tuesday, April 21

- pp. 342–359, 19. The Principate of the early Roman Empire takes shape
- pp. 360–380, 20. Imperial stabilization under Augustus
- pp. 381–400, 21. The impact of Augustus on Roman Imperial life and culture

*Read one of the following:*

- Selections / Catullus
- The Secular Hymn / Horace
- The Battle of Teutoburg Forest / Velleius Paterculus
- Acts of the Divine Augustus / Augustus
- The Death of Augustus and the Accession of Tiberius / Tacitus

### 11 Succession and Empire

Thursday, April 23

- pp. 401–418, 22. The first two Julio-Claudian Emperors: Tiberius and Gaius
- pp. 419–435, 23. Claudius, Nero, and the end of the Julio-Claudians
- pp. 436–450, 24. The crisis of the Principate and recovery under the Flavians

*Read one of the following:*

- A Speech on Incorporating the Gauls / Claudius
- The Pumpkinification of Claudius / Seneca
- The Principle of Adoption / Tacitus
- The Legions Proclaim Vespasian Emperor / Tacitus
- The Roman Army in the First Century CE / Josephus
- Law Concerning the Power of Vespasian / Legal Text
- How Domitian Attempted to Amuse the Populace / Suetonius

## 12 The Roman Peace

Thursday, April 30

- pp. 452–474, 25. The five “good” emperors of the second century
- pp. 475–506, 26. Culture, society, and economy in the first two centuries c.e.

*Read one of the following:*

- The Grandeur of Rome / Pliny The Elder
- Panegyric Addressed to the Emperor Trajan / Pliny The Younger
- The Correspondence of a Provincial Governor and the Emperor / Pliny The Younger
- Egypt under the Roman Empire / Strabo, Oxyrhynchus Papyri
- Roman Educational Practices / Various
- On the Virtue of Antoninus Pius / Marcus Aurelius
- The Reign of Marcus Aurelius / Eutropius

## 13 Third Century Crisis

Thursday, May 7

- pp. 507–527, 27. Conflicts and Crises under Commodus and the Severi
- pp. 528–541, 28. The third-century anarchy
- pp. 542–563, 29. Changes in Roman life and culture during the third century

*Read one of the following:*

- Imperial Weakness Invites Barbarian Aggression / Zosimus
- The Persecution under Decius / Eusebius
- Aurelian’s Conquest of Palmyra / Vopiscus
- How Didius Julianus Bought the Empire at Auction / Herodian
- The Lives of Soldiers and Sailors / Various
- The Luxury of the Rich in Rome / Ammianus Marcellinus

## 14 The New Empire

Thursday, May 14

- pp. 563–578, 30. Diocletian: Creating the fourth-century Empire
- pp. 579–593, 31. Constantine the Great and Christianity
- pp. 594–604, 32. From Constantine’s dynasty to Theodosius the Great
- pp. 605–624, 33. The evolving world of Late Antiquity in the fourth century c.e.

*Read one of the following:*

- The Conversion of Constantine / Eusebius
- Constantine Founds Constantinople, 324 CE / Sozomen
- Letter to Arsacius / Julian
- Alaric’s Sack of Rome, 410 CE / Procopius of Caesarea
- The Greatness of Rome in the Days of Ruin, 413CE / Rutilius Namatianus
- The Battle of Chalons, 451 CE / Jordanes

*The position paper is due Monday, May 11.*

## 15 Final Exam

Thursday, May 21