

# Schedule of Readings and Assignments

*History of Ancient Rome • Spring 2023*

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

Readings listed with the book icon (📖) are from the assigned textbook, Schultz, *A History of the Roman People*, 7e.

To prepare for each meeting, you need to read:

- All of the listed sections from the textbook (Schultz et al.), and
- At least one of the primary source readings from the Reader, *De Roma*.

**Note on textbook readings:** the text has short chapters around specific topics. I've kept the readings about the same from week to week.

## 1 Introduction and Themes

*Thursday, January 26*

Watch the Welcome and Orientation Video

Sign up for your presentations

## 2 Tribes and Kings

*Thursday, February 2*

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

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 DIONYSIUS / On the Subject of Roman History
- 📖 DIONYSIUS / Early Rules for Clients and Patrons
- 📖 LIVY / Numa's Religious Settlement
- 📖 LIVY / The Capture of the Sabine Women
- 📖 DIONYSIUS / Servius Tullius's Reform of the Comitia Centuriata
- 📖 LIVY / The Rape of Lucretia

## 3 Patrician and Plebeian

*Thursday, February 9*

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

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 DIONYSIUS / Coriolanus Opposes the Plebs
- 📖 DIONYSIUS / The Tribunes and their Manipulation
- 📖 FRAGMENTS / The Twelve Tables
- 📖 LIVY, DIONYSIUS / The Roman Way of Declaring War
- 📖 CICERO, DIONYSIUS / The Mythology of the Farmer General
- 📖 LIVY / The Defeat of the Latins
- 📖 POLYBIUS / The Constitution of the Roman Republic

## 4 Conquering the West

*Thursday, February 16*

- 📖 6. The Roman conquest of Italy and its impact (pp 99-118)
- 📖 7. The First Punic War, northern Italy, & Illyrian pirates (pp 119-135)
- 📖 8. War with Hannibal: The Second Punic War (pp 136-149)

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 POLYBIUS / The Roman Maniple vs. the Macedonian Phalanx
- 📖 LIVY / The Samnites' 'Linen Legion' Remains Undaunted
- 📖 CORNELIUS NEPOS / Hannibal
- 📖 POLYBIUS / The Battle of Cannae
- 📖 LIVY, PRUDENTIUS / The Magna Mater
- 📖 POLYBIUS / The Siege of Syracuse

## 5 Acquisition of Empire

*Thursday, February 23*

- 📖 9. Roman imperialism East and West (pp 150-173)
- 📖 10. The transformation of Roman life (pp 174-192)
- 📖 11. The great cultural synthesis (pp 193-207)

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 POLYBIUS / The Destruction of Corinth
- 📖 LIVY / Cato Opposes Extravagance
- 📖 PLAUTUS / From The Menaechmi
- 📖 VARIOUS / Accounts of the Roman State Religion
- 📖 VARIOUS / Slavery in the Roman Republic

## 6 Optimates and Populares

*Thursday, March 2*

- 📖 12. The Gracchi and the struggle over reforms (pp 208-223)
- 📖 13. Destructive rivalries, Marius, and the Social War (pp 224-239)
- 📖 14. Civil war and Sulla's reactionary settlement (pp 240-250)

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 APPIAN / On Tiberius Gracchus
- 📖 PLUTARCH / On Tiberius Gracchus
- 📖 APPIAN / On Gaius Gracchus
- 📖 SALLUST / Speech of Marius Against the Nobility
- 📖 APPIAN AND PLUTARCH / Mithridates Against Rome
- 📖 APPIAN / Drusus and his Enemies
- 📖 LIVY, APPIAN / Sulla's Brutality

## 7 Crossing the Rubicon

*Thursday, March 9*

- 📖 15. Personal ambitions: failure of Sulla's oligarchy (pp 251-272)
- 📖 16. Caesar wins and is lost (pp 273-296)

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 SALLUST / Pompey's Letter to the Senate
- 📖 CICERO / Against Catiline
- 📖 APPIAN / Pompey's Conquest of the East
- 📖 ASCONIUS / The Murder of Clodius
- 📖 SUETONIUS / On Julius Caesar

⚠️ The Images Essay is due on Monday, March 6.

## 8 End of the Republic

Thursday, March 16

- 17. The last years of the Republic (pp 297-316)
- 18. Social, economic, and cultural life in late Republic (pp 317-341)

Also read one of the following:

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

## 9 Augustus, Princeps, Imperator

Thursday, March 23

- 19. The Principate takes shape (pp 342-359)
- 20. Imperial stabilization under Augustus (pp 360-380)
- 21. The impact of Augustus on Roman Imperial life (pp 381-400)

Also read one of the following:

- CATULLUS / Selections
- HORACE / The Secular Hymn
- VELLEIUS PATERCULUS / The Battle of Teutoburg Forest
- AUGUSTUS / Acts of the Divine Augustus
- TACITUS / The Death of Augustus and the Accession of Tiberius Nero

⚠ The Proposal is due on Monday, March 20.

## 10 Succession and Empire

Thursday, March 30

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

Also read one of the following:

- CLAUDIUS / A Speech on Incorporating the Gauls
- SENECA / The Pumpkinification of Claudius
- TACITUS / The Principle of Adoption
- TACITUS / The Legions Proclaim Vespasian Emperor
- JOSEPHUS / The Roman Army in the First Century CE
- LEGAL TEXT / Law Concerning the Power of Vespasian
- SUETONIUS / How Domitian Attempted to Amuse the Populace

Thursday, April 6

Thursday, April 13

No meeting (Spring Recess)

## 11 The Roman Peace

Thursday, April 20

- 25. The five "good" emperors of the second century (pp 451-473)
- 26. Culture, society in the first two centuries c.e. (pp 474-505)

Also read one of the following:

- PLINY THE ELDER / The Grandeur of Rome
- PLINY THE YOUNGER / Panegyric Addressed to the Emperor Trajan
- PLINY THE YOUNGER / Correspondence of a Governor and Emperor
- STRABO, OXYRHYNCHOS PAPYRI / Egypt under the Roman Empire
- VARIOUS / Roman Educational Practices
- MARCUS AURELIUS / On the Virtue of Antoninus Pius
- EUTROPIUS / The Reign of Marcus Aurelius

## 12 Third Century Crisis

Thursday, April 27

- 27. Conflicts and Crises under Commodus and Severi (pp 506-526)
- 28. The third-century anarchy (pp 527-540)
- 29. Changes in Roman life during the third century (pp 541-562)

Also read one of the following:

- ZOSIMUS / Imperial Weakness Invites Barbarian Aggression
- EUSEBIUS / The Persecution under Decius
- VOPISCUS / Aurelian's Conquest of Palmyra
- HERODIAN / How Didius Julianus Bought the Empire at Auction
- VARIOUS / The Lives of Soldiers and Sailors

## 13 The New Empire

Thursday, May 4

- 30. Diocletian: Creating the fourth-century Empire (pp 563-578)
- 31. Constantine the Great and Christianity (pp 579-593)
- 32. From Constantine's dynasty to Theodosius (pp 594-604)

Also read one of the following:

- DIOCLETIAN AND CONSTANTINE / Efforts to Stabilize the Economy
- EUSEBIUS / The Conversion of Constantine
- CONSTANTINE / The Edict of Milan
- SOZOMEN / Constantine Founds Constantinople, 324 CE
- JULIAN / Letter to Arsacius

## 14 The End of Antiquity

Thursday, May 11

- 33. The evolving world of Late Antiquity (pp 605-624)
- 34. Christianity and Classical culture (pp 625-648)

Also read one of the following:

- AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS / The Luxury of the Rich in Rome
- PROCOPIUS OF CAESAREA / Alaric's Sack of Rome, 410 CE
- RUTILIUS NAMATIUS / The Greatness of Rome in the Days of Ruin
- JORDANES / The Battle of Chalons, 451 CE

⚠ The Position Paper is due on Monday, May 8.

## 15 Final Exam

Thursday, May 18

The final exam will be held in-person from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. in our normal meeting room.