

For who is so worthless or indolent as not to wish to know by what means and under what system of government the Romans...succeeded in subjecting nearly the whole inhabited world to their sole power — a thing unique in history? Or who again is there so passionately devoted to other spectacles or studies as to regard anything as of greater moment than the acquisition of this knowledge?...In the course of this work it will become more clearly intelligible by what steps this power was acquired, and it will also be seen how many and how great advantages accrue to the student from the systematic treatment of history. (Polybius, *Histories* 1.1.5-6; 1.2.7; 2nd century BCE)

Meetings: M Th 10-11:20, Cornett B107

Instructor: Dr G. Rowe, Clearihue B430

Office hours: T 10:30-11:20, Th 1:30-2:20, or by appointment

My email address is [gdrowe@uvic.ca](mailto:gdrowe@uvic.ca). Please contact me via email *only* if, for medical reasons, you will be unable to attend class for a scheduled test (see below).

### Resources

Potter, D.S. 2009. *Ancient Rome. A new history*. ISBN 978-0-500-28786-6

Hedrick, C.W. 2006. *Ancient history: Monuments and documents*. ISBN: 978-1405106580

additional readings on Moodle and through McPherson Course Reserve

### Course Description

This course surveys Roman political history from the origins of Rome to the fall of the Roman Empire in the West and the Arab invasions, a span of two millennia. Students will be introduced to the literary, documentary, and material sources for Roman history, and the ways these can be used to construct narratives and other historical models. Emphasis is placed on historical geography, the major periods of Roman history, and Rome's changing political culture.

The course is divided into six units, with a homework assignment corresponding to every unit and an in-class test every two units. The purpose of the homework assignments is to introduce students to the primary sources, reference materials, and scholarship relating to Roman history. They will consist of 3-4 short-answer questions; a completed assignment should run to about 750 words in total. The in-class tests will also consist of short-answer questions. Their purpose is to test students on the content of the lectures and readings.

### Evaluation

3 in-class tests (3 Oct., 31 Oct., 1 Dec.)            1/6<sup>th</sup> of final grade each

6 assignments    1/12<sup>th</sup> of final grade each

(due 22 Sept., 3 Oct., 20 Oct., 31 Oct., 17 Nov., 1 Dec.)

No late work, no make-up tests without a medical excuse. Students must complete all assignments to pass the course; those who fail to do so will be given a grade of N. Plagiarism, multiple submission, falsifying materials, and cheating will all be dealt with as per the Policy on Academic Integrity (UVic Calendar 33-4).

Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Students who will miss class for religious observances should notify the instructor during the first week of class. Students who foresee that they might miss class at any time during the term for athletic competitions, concerts, model UN meetings, etc. must seek the instructor's permission during the first week of class. Students who are unable to attend class for a scheduled test for medical reasons must email the instructor before the test and present a valid medical excuse before a make-up test will be scheduled.

Please be advised that the instructor may run student work through Turnitin and may ask students to resubmit work that fails to respect conventions of spelling and grammar (e.g. *Roman* not capitalized, plurals formed 's, etc.)

All grades will be letter grades, with their grade-point equivalents, according to the UVic scale; no percentages will be used.

Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	9	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	8	
A-	7	
B+	6	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
B	5	
B-	4	
C+	3	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	
D	1	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
Failing Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
F	0	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

### Provisional schedule

Readings from Hedrick will be found on the Assignments

	<b>September 8</b> Course Expectations and Intro to Primary Sources
<b>12</b> Unit 1: Early Rome Archaic Italy	<b>15</b> Age of Kings Potter 46-54

Potter 8-18, 19-45	
<b>19</b> Early Republic and Struggle of the Orders	<b>22</b> Assignment 1 due Unit 2: <i>Imperium Romanum</i> Conquest of Italy Potter 55-63
<b>26</b> Carthage and the Greek World Potter 63-79, 84-95	<b>29</b> Constitution of the Roman Republic Potter 79-83
<b>October 3</b> Assignment 2 due First In-class Test	<b>6</b> Unit 3: Fall of the Roman Republic The Gracchi and Italy Potter 96-122
<b>10</b> Thanksgiving Day: No Class	<b>13</b> Cicero Potter 134-8
<b>17</b> Civil Wars Potter 122-34; 139-65	<b>20</b> Assignment 3 due Unit 4: Birth of the Principate Novus Status Potter 165-74
<b>24</b> Age of Livia Potter 174-83	<b>27</b> Julio-Claudians Potter 183-94
<b>31</b> Assignment 4 due Second In-class Test	<b>November 3</b> Unit 5: The High Roman Empire Roman Imperial State Potter 195-238
<b>7</b> Jewish Wars Potter 238-50	<b>10</b> Reading Break: No Class
<b>14</b> Christianity	<b>17</b> Assignment 5 due Unit 6: The Late Roman Empire Third-Century Crisis and Diocletian Potter 251-75
<b>21</b> Constantine Potter 275-300	<b>24</b> Empire West and East Potter 301-34
<b>28</b> Review	<b>December 1</b> Assignment 6 due Third In-class Test