This course surveys Roman history from the origins of Rome to the assassination of Julius Caesar—a period of more than seven centuries. The two major themes of the course are 1) the rise of Rome to rule over the entire Mediterranean world and 2) the changes wrought upon Roman society by Roman success. We will first examine the origins of Rome, the evolution of the Roman constitution, and the acquisition of Roman dominion over Italy (the Early Republic). Then, we will follow the story of Rome's rise to world power (the Middle Republic). Finally, we will trace the decline of Republican institutions as a result of the internal pressures generated by Roman responsibility for the Mediterranean world (the Late Republic).

There will be three examinations, each counting 25% of the final grade, and a paper (topic to be discussed), counting 25% of the final grade.

Books required

Heichelheim, Yeo, and Ward, A History of the Roman People (HYW)
Lewis and Reinhold, Roman Civilization, vol.1 (RC)
Sallust, The Jugurthine War and the Conspiracy of Catiline
Plutarch, Fall of the Roman Republic (P)
Lucretius, On the Nature of the Universe

Schedule of Lectures/Readings

Early Republic
8/14 Introduction
8/16 Geography and Prehistory HYW 1-7
8/18 Etruscans HYW 8-18
8/21 Greeks in Italy HYW 19-21
8/23 Earliest Rome HYW 22-27
8/25 Etruscan Rome HYW 27-34; LR 55-73
8/28 From Monarchy to Republic HYW 48-55, 35-47;
8/30 Romans and Latins HYW 66-77; LR 74, 78-81, 90-93
9/1 Romans and Samnites LR 81-85; 88-90, 143-
9/6 Pyrrhus and Southern Italy HYW 77-80; LR 85-88
9/8 Struggle of the Orders I HYW 55-65; LR 96-98,
9/11  Struggle of the Orders II    LR 124-132
9/13  The Republican Constitution    LR 410-417

9/15  FIRST EXAM

Middle Republic
9/18  First Punic War    HYW 81-90; LR 75-78
9/20  Aftermath    HYW 91-96; LR 161-163
9/22  Rome and Illyria    HYW 96-99
9/25  Origins of the Second Punic War    HYW 100-102
9/27  Second Punic War    HYW 102-110
9/29  Rome and the East, 200-180 B.C.    HYW 111-119
10/2  Rome and the East, 179-133 B.C.    HYW 119-123
10/4  Rome and the West, 200-133 B.C.    HYW 124-130
10/6  Provincial Administration
10/11  Cultural Developments    HYW 144-154
10/13  Politics    HYW 140-143
10/16  Aspects of Roman Culture

10/18  SECOND EXAM

Late Republic
10/20  Economic and Social Problems    HYW 130-140;
10/23  Gracchan Crisis I    HYW 155-162
10/25  Gracchan Crisis II    HYW 162-166
10/27  Age of Marius    HYW 167-177, P 13-45
10/30  Italic War    HYW 177-180
11/1  Civil War    HYW 181-185, P 45-63
11/3  Sulla    HYW 185-189, P 65-111
11/6  Rise of Pompey    HYW 190-198; P 113-129, 157-206
11/8  Cicero    HYW 198-208; P 311-336
11/10  First Triumvirate    HYW 209-212; P 243-258
11/13  Caesar in Gaul    HYW 212-217, P 258-271
11/15  Politics in the 50s B.C.    HYW 218-220; P 206-219, 336-348;
11/17  Toward the Rubicon    HYW 220-221; P 272-276
11/20  Civil War    HYW 222-226; P 219-242, 275-296
11/27  Intellectual Developments    HYW 249-269;

Lucretius, On the
### Nature of the Universe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Dictatorship of Caesar</td>
<td>HYW 227-229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Death of Caesar</td>
<td>HYW 229-231; P 296-310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Retrospect and Prospect</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/?</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td></td>
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