

HIS 354
The Roman Republic

Ruzicka
MHRA 2123
10-11 MWF
334-5488
sqruzick@uncg.edu

For many people “Rome” conjures up images of a vast empire and a series of autocratic and often deranged emperors. That is only part of the story of Roman history. An equally long and equally fascinating phase—that of the Roman Republic—preceded the age of emperors. It was in fact during this phase of Roman history that Rome became a big city, that the Romans took control of the Mediterranean world, and that Julius Caesar (not an emperor) lived. This course surveys this “republican” period of Roman history from the origins of Rome to the assassination of Julius Caesar--a period of more than seven centuries. The three major themes of the course are: 1) the development of Rome’s distinctive political institutions and practices, 2) the rise of Rome to rule over the entire Mediterranean world and 3) 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 crises of Republican institutions as a result of the internal pressures generated by Roman responsibility for the Mediterranean world (the Late Republic). In a nutshell, we will be examining the rise and fall of the Roman Republic—a 500-year long story.

There will be three examinations, each counting 25% of the final grade, and 3 papers (topics at end of syllabus), counting altogether 25% of the final grade.

Books required

Boatwright, Gargola, Lenski, and Talbert, *The Romans. From Village to Empire*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2012) (= B in reading assignments)

Schedule of Lectures/Readings

Backgrounds and Beginnings

8/19	Introduction/Geography and Prehistory	B 1-22
8/21	Etruscans and Greeks in Italy	B 22-27; Herodotus on Etruscans http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/etruscans2.asp
	Etruscan objects in Vatican collection	http://www.christusrex.org/www1/vaticano/ET1-Etrusco.html
8/26	Earliest Rome/Etruscan Rome	B 27-42
8/28	From Monarchy to Republic	B 43-46

Early Republic: From Rome to Roman Italy

8/30	Romans and Latins vs. Hill Peoples	B 46-49
9/2	Struggle of the Orders	B 49-53; Twelve Tables http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/12tables.asp

- 9/4 Republican Constitution B 53-64; Polybius, Book VI
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/6*.html
- 9/9 Samnite Wars B 69-80
- 9/11 Pyrrhus and Greek Cities in Italy B 80-86
- 9/16 Culture and Politics B 64-69, 88-94

9/18 FIRST EXAM

Middle Republic: Rome in the Mediterranean World

- 9/23 The Mediterranean World, West and East
- 9/25 1st Punic War B 94-100
- 9/30 2nd Punic War B 100-109, , Livy, Book XXI
<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Livy/Livy21.html>
 Polybius, Book III
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/3*.html
- Battle of Cannae <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/polybius-cannae.asp>
- 10/2 Managing Provinces B109-113
- 10/7 Rome in the East: 2nd Macedonian War B 117-120, Polybius, Book XVII,
 Roman maniple vs. Greek phalanx <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/polybius-maniple.asp>
- 10/9 Rome in the East: Syrian/Macedonian Wars B 120-23
- 10/14 FALL BREAK
- 10/16 Rome in the West B 113-117, 123-124; Polybius, 3rd
 Punic War <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/polybius-punic3.asp>
- 10/21 Social and Political Changes B 125-133
- 10/23 Cultural Changes B 133-141

10/28 SECOND EXAM

Late Republic; Challenges and Crises

- 10/30 The Gracchan Reforms B 141-153; Appian on the Gracchi
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/appian-civwars1.asp>
- 11/4 Marius and the New Army B 154-167; Marian army
<http://www.strategypage.com/articles/default.asp?target=marius/manipletocohort>
- 11/6 Social War B 167-175
- 11/11 Sullan Crisis B 175-193
- 11/13 Rise of Pompey B 194-215; “How to Campaign”
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/54candidate.asp>; Sallust, *Conspiracy of Catiline* <http://www.forumromanum.org/literature/sallust/catilinae.html>
- 11/18 Rise of Caesar B 217-229
- 11/20 Toward Civil War B 229-241; Plutarch, *Life of Caesar*
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/caesar.html>
- Suetonius, *Life of Caesar* <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/suetonius-julius.asp>
 Cicero’s Letters (sample these for politics of 50s BC)
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/cicero-letters.asp>
- 11/25 Caesar’s Dictatorship B 241-256

12/6 FINAL EXAM 3:30-5:30 (Note: 12/6 is a Saturday)

Paper Topics (submit these to me via email attachment—sqruzick@uncg.edu)

1. Trace the successive stages in the Struggle of the Orders from the early 5th century to the middle of the 3rd century BC., noting the powers and privileges conceded to plebeians by the patrician elite. How did the new nobility differ from the earlier nobility? 750-1000 words. Due 9/16

2. By the 180s BC Rome had acquired a dominant role in both western and eastern Mediterranean affairs. Was this the result of a grand strategy on the part of the Romans? Discuss the causes of Rome's wars outside Italy between 264 and 190 BC (1st Punic War, 1st and 2nd Illyrian Wars, 2nd Punic War, 1st and 2nd Macedonian Wars, Syrian War) to show whether or not Rome was pursuing a policy of aggression aimed at acquiring imperial power. Do not follow battles, just causes. 750-1000 words. Due 10/23

3. Using specific examples, discuss Sallust's portrayal of early Rome in Sallust, *Conspiracy of Catiline* <http://www.forumromanum.org/literature/sallust/catilinae.html>, and contrast this with his depiction of contemporary Rome (60s BC). What virtues and vices does he highlight? What does he claim is responsible for the deterioration of Roman morals? 750-1000 words. Due 11/25