Classics 202 Spring 2010  
THE ROMANS  
Henry Bayerle  
Seney Hall 310, MWF 12:50PM - 1:40PM  
Office Hours: Language Hall 106A, MWF 2PM – 3PM

“The Romans” is a survey of ancient Rome from its origins in legend and myth to late antiquity, as seen through its principal literary texts in their historical, social, and cultural context. The time period covered is 753 BCE to the 12th century CE. Plastic art, material culture, and historical sources will be examined, but the primary focus of the course will be literature. Authors will include Livy, Sallust, Cicero, Julius Caesar, Suetonius, Catullus, Vergil, Horace, Propertius, Tibullus, Ovid, Seneca, Pliny, Plutarch, and Perpetua.

This is an area VB course and a sophomore writing course. Students will write one short paper (5 – 6 pages), one long paper (10 – 12 pages), and a few one-page response papers. There will be a midterm and a final exam, which will involve identifying names and passages from the reading and answering essay questions.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: THE BEGINNINGS OF LATIN AND THE ROMAN PEOPLE  
Jan. 13 – 15  
Readings: Livy, *Histories* selections

WEEK 2: CRISIS OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC: THE EMPIRE AND INTERNAL RIVALRIES  
Jan. 20 – 22  
Suetonius, *Life of Julius Caesar*

WEEK 3: CRISIS OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC: RESISTANCE AND TRANSFORMATION  
Jan. 25 – 29  
Readings: Julius Caesar, *Civil Wars* selections  
Sallust, *Catiline* selections  
Suetonius, *Life of Augustus*

WEEK 4: EARLY EMPIRE: A NEW GOLDEN AGE?  
Feb. 1 – 5  
Readings: Augustus, *Res Gestae*  
Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* selections  
Tacitus, *Annals* selections  
Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol.1, Chapter 3
WEEK 5: LITERATURE OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC: TRADITIONAL ROME VS. GREEK CULTURE
Feb. 8 – 12
Readings: Cicero, *Pro Archia*
Selections from the lyric poetry of Sappho, Archilochus, Callimachus, and Catullus
Vergil, *Eclogues*; Horace, *Odes and Epodes* selections

WEEK 6: EPIC AND EMPIRE
Feb. 15 – 19
Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 1 – 6

WEEK 7: PYRRHIC VICTORY: PERSONAL LIFE AND THE ROMAN HERO
Feb. 22 – 26
Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 7 – 12

WEEK 8: MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR
March 1 – 5
Readings: Selections from the elegies of Propertius and Tibullus
Ovid, *Amores* selections
Ovid, *Art of Love* Book 1

WEEK 9: CHANGE AND TRADITION: 'TIS LIKE A CAMEL, INDEED
March 15 – 19
Readings: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1 – 7

WEEK 10: ART AND RESISTANCE
March 22 – 26
Readings: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 8 – 15

WEEK 11: GLADIATORS: THE POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, AND BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT
March 29 – April 2
Readings: Suetonius, *Lives of Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero*

WEEK 12: CHRISTIANITY AND ROME
April 5 – 9
Readings: *The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas*

WEEK 13: CLASSICAL CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES: SURVIVAL AND TRANSFORMATION
April 12 - 16
Readings: Augustine, *Confessions*, selections

WEEK 14: MEDIEVAL EXEGESIS AND EPIDICTIC RHETORIC
April 19 – 23
Readings: Bernardus Silvestris, *Commentary on the First Six Books of the Aeneid*

WEEK 15: NAMING THE CANON
April 26
Reading: T. S. Eliot, “What is a Classic?”
Italo Calvino, “Why Read the Classics?”
Important dates
Paper 1 due:    Feb. 17
Midterm Exam:   March 5
Paper 2 due:  April 19

Your Tasks
1. Reading all text assignments before class. By “reading” I mean not only reading all of the words on the pages but also underlining important passages, making marginal notes in the texts themselves, and/or taking notes on index cards or in a notebook. Think of this as “active reading.” By reviewing your notes before class you can more effectively participate in class discussion.

2. Participating actively in class discussions (you can do this only if you have read actively beforehand).

3. Preparing two short presentations, based either on the weekly readings or a supplemental article.

4. Writing one short paper (5 – 6 pages) and one long paper (10 – 12 pages).

5. Taking a midterm and a final exam. These exams will involve identifying names and passages from your reading and answering essay questions.

Attendance policy
I expect you to attend every class. More than three unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one percentage point for every class you miss.

Grading Policy
Participation in Class Discussions   25%
Short Paper     10%
Long Paper     20%
Midterm Exam 15%
Final Exam     30%

Texts