



Course Title: The Roman World

Course Code: HIS 197 W

Instructor Name and Bio: Dr Gary Devore has excavated in the ancient ruins of Pompeii and also at sites near Hadrian's Wall in the north of England. He received a PhD in archaeology from the University of Bradford in the UK and taught at Stanford for a decade.

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times: Thursdays 7-8pm PT

Meeting location: Zoom

Each week the students should 1) watch the video treatment of the material, 2) read the assigned reading, 3) attend the weekly hour-long Zoom session lecture where they will also be able to ask the instructor questions. (The Zoom sessions will be recorded so those not able to attend should watch them later.)

Course Features:

- Live session
 - Lecture with Q&A
- Assignments & Coursework
 - Assigned readings of ancient texts in translation, and some modern articles
 - Encouraged discussions in Canvas
 - A brief, open book final essay exam is available for those wishing to take the course for a grade or credit

Course Summary

Every week material on Canvas will introduce the students to the ancient Roman we are meeting that week and identify what they should be on the look out for (in the readings and the video material). At the weekly Zoom meeting, Dr Devore will go into more detail and provide context for that period of Roman history we're studying. After a brief lecture, Dr Devore will remain online for optional questions and discussions.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students must receive a passing grade on the final essay exam.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Score will be determined by the final open book essay exam.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

All readings for the course will be provided as hyperlinks or free downloadable .pdfs. If a student wishes to purchase a physical book for the ancient biographies, which would also include better modern translations and more background information, please use the following editions:

- Livy's *Early History of Rome* (Servius Tullius): <https://www.amazon.com/Livy-Early-History-Penguin-Classics/dp/0140448098/>
- Plutarch's *Makers of Rome* (Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus): <https://www.amazon.com/Makers-Rome-Lives-Penguin-Classics/dp/0140441581/>
- Plutarch's *Fall of the Roman Republic*: (Marius, Sulla, and Caesar): <https://www.amazon.com/Fall-Roman-Republic-Penguin-Classics/dp/0140449345/>
- Suetonius' *Twelve Caesars* (Augustus and Nero): <https://www.amazon.com/Twelve-Caesars-Suetonius/dp/0140455167/>
- *Lives of the Later Caesars* (Hadrian): <https://www.amazon.com/Lives-Later-Caesars-Augustan-Compiled/dp/0140443088/>

Purchasing physical books for the course is optional.

Tentative Weekly Outline

Week 1: The Reign of Servius Tullius, from Slave to King?

Reading: Livy's *Early History of Rome* (Book I, sections 39-48)
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/From_the_Founding_of_the_City/Book_1#39

Thursday Lecture Topic: "Excavating historical truth from ancient mythological stories"

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St, Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

Week 2: The Revolutionary Gracchi Family: Cornelia, Tiberius and Gaius

Reading: Plutarch's *Lives of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Tiberius_Gracchus*.html

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Caius_Gracchus*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “Finding the women hidden in history”

Week 3: The Dark Rivalry of Marius and Sulla

Reading: Plutarch's *Lives of Gaius Marius and Sulla*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Marius*.html

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Sulla*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “The dangers of a political life in Rome”

Week 4: The Improbable Rise of Julius Caesar

Reading: Plutarch's *Life of Caesar*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Caesar*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “A Roman ‘House of Cards’: How useful are personal ambition and ruthless pragmatism in attaining Roman political power?”

Week 5: Augustus, Rome's First Citizen

Reading: Suetonius' *Life of Augustus*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Augustus*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “How to construct an imperial legacy”

Week 6: The Many Excesses of Nero

Reading: Suetonius' *Life of Nero*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Nero*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “The role of salacious slander in writing history”

Week 7: Hadrian, The Soul of Rome

Reading: *The Life of Hadrian in the Historia Augusta*

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Historia_Augusta/Hadrian/1*.html

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Historia_Augusta/Hadrian/2*.html

Thursday Lecture Topic: “The many accomplishments of Hadrian”

Week 8: Gallienus and His Successful Failures

Reading: “The Crisis of the Third Century AD in the Roman Empire: A Modern Myth?” by Lukas DeBlois from *The Transformation of Economic Life under the Roman Empire* (2001)

(.pdf on Canvas website)

Thursday Lecture Topic: “How we tell history“

Week 9: Diocletian Saves the World (For a Price)

Reading: selections from *The Roman Empire at Bay* by David S. Potter (2004) (pages 276-298) and *Constantine and the Bishops* by H. A. Drake (2000) (pages 85-103)

(.pdfs on Canvas website)

Thursday Lecture Topic: “The political reality of absolutism”

Week 10: Constantine and the Fall of Rome

Reading: Chapter 1 of *There is No Crime for Those Who Have Christ: Religious Violence in the Christian Roman Empire* by Michael Gaddis (2005) (pages 29-67)

(.pdf on Canvas website)

Thursday Lecture Topic: “How does an empire fall?”