

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of History
2020-2021

AP/HIST/CLST 3130 (6.0)
The Roman Revolution
Mon 14:30-17:30
HNE 103

Course Director:
Dr. Ryan Wei
ryanwei@yorku.ca

Office Hour:
M: 1:30-2:20
T: 1:30-2:20
Th: 11:30-12:20

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to examine a pivotal period in Roman history: the transition from the Roman Republic into the Roman Principate. The course begins with a discussion of the historical and social circumstances that produced the conditions of the Late Republic, then proceeds to explore the many challenges faced by the Roman state that ultimately led up to the so-called Roman Revolution, including the rise of the dynasts, the breakdown of the Roman constitution, the escalation of violence in Rome, and the turbulent career of Julius Caesar. The second half of the course will focus on the figure of Augustus, the man at the centre of this transformation, which in turn set the foundations for the Roman imperial regime. In this section, we will deal with such topics as the rise of Octavian, the conflict between Octavian and Antony, Octavian's evolution into Augustus, Augustan reforms and propaganda, and the legacy of Augustus. Through it all, we will attempt to address some crucial questions, such as whether the fall of the Roman Republic and the Roman Revolution was itself inevitable, how do we characterize the very concept of Roman Revolution, and why Augustus was successful where others had failed. To do so, we will employ a variety of sources to inform our analysis and discussion, which range from historiography, biography, epic poetry, oratory, to non-literary sources, such as sculptures, architecture, inscriptions, and coins.

Course Objectives:

Students will acquire a detailed understanding of the history of this period, including the political and social conditions of the Late Republic, as well as the conditions that brought Octavian to power.

Students will learn to read and analyze critically a wide variety of primary and secondary sources pertaining to the history and society of Rome.

Students will obtain a working historical knowledge of the Classical world.

Students will expand on their ability to communicate their knowledge through a series of written assignment and constructive discussions, in addition to developing the necessary skills in research methods and techniques.

Course Components:

The course will consist of one class per week on Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30PM. Time will be divided flexibly between lecture and class discussion.

Attendance at the classes is mandatory, for which you are expected to have read the material assigned, and during which you are expected to participate and discuss the readings and relevant issues that arise. Failure to do so will significantly impact your final grade. If you are experiencing problems and/or difficulties, or if you are falling behind, come see me immediately, and we can discuss possible solutions to help you catch up.

As per the University's policy on the COVID situation, our class sessions for the Fall and Winter terms will be conducted synchronously via Zoom. This means that I will be holding class at the scheduled time on Mondays. Please make yourself available and ensure that you have stable internet connection during those times, as part of your participation grade requires your presence. These sessions will also be recorded and made available to students that have a valid reason for being unable to attend, as, for instance, extreme difference in time zones; if this applies to you, please let me know in advance, and I will create some way to evaluate your participation in the course.

In addition to attendance at the classes and participating in the discussions as part of the participation mark, you will be required to complete two short essays on source criticism and two short essays on scholarly studies, submit a major research paper, and sit two examinations during the respective examination periods. The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Article Review 1: 10% (October 19th, 2020)
Article Review 2: 10% (November 9th, 2020)
Essay 1: 15% (December 7th, 2020)
Exam 1: 15% (December Examination Period)
Essay Thesis: 5% (February 8th, 2021)
Major Essay: 20% (April 12th, 2021)
Exam 2: 15% (April Examination Period)
Participation / Discussion: 10%

The exams will consist of short answers and essay questions. The article reviews will be around 1200 words in length; essay 1 will be around 1800 words; and the major essay will be around 2500 words in length; all of these items will be handed in via the Turnitin link on Moodle.

NOTE: If asked to do so, the student will be responsible for explaining the contents of a particular essay to the course director. Otherwise, the assignment will not be considered complete.

Obviously, you will not be able to come to campus to sit the examination during the December and April examination period. York does offer an online proctoring service if we were to conduct our exams remotely, but I am not sure as of yet whether to use this service, or find some alternative for us. Nevertheless, I include the disclaimer here in the syllabus, in case we are required to make use of it.

“This course requires the use of online proctoring for examinations. The instructor may use an online proctoring service to deliver the exam(s), which would be administered through the Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle, Canvas, etc.). Students are required to have access to minimum technology requirements to complete examinations. If an online proctoring service is used, students will need to become familiar with it at least five days before exam(s). For technology requirements, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and details about the online proctoring service visit – <https://registrar.yorku.ca/online-exams>. Students are required to share any IT accommodation needs with the instructor as soon as they are able.”

Course Expectations:

You are expected to have read the assigned material and to be able to discuss them in class. Furthermore, you are also expected to be responsible in your behaviour, and respectful of the course director and your fellow classmates. If you are found to be breaching these basic rules of conduct, you will be asked to leave the class.

Laptops and other electronic devices for note taking and engaging with the course materials are permitted, and they are permitted **ONLY FOR THESE PURPOSES**. Students found using such devices for any other purposes will be asked to desist and will be prohibited from using them during classes in the future.

Mobile phones are **NOT** allowed in class, and anyone found using them during class time, whether for texting or other forms of communication, will be asked to leave.

I am generally pretty quick at responding to emails, and will try to get back to you within 24 hours. You should not expect a prompt response over the weekend, however.

You can find the York Student Code of Conduct here:
<http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf>

Grading:

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g. A+ =9, A=8, B+=7, C+=5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100; A = 80-89, B+=75-79, B=70-74; C+=65-69, C+60-64, etc.).

For a full description of York's grading system, see the York University Undergraduate Calendar: <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/academic/grades/index.htm>

Penalties:

There is a penalty for the late submission of any written work, unless **prior** permission has been obtained from me; however, do note that this will only be given in exceptional circumstances. For each day or portion thereof after the due date, expect a deduction of **half a letter grade**.

Any missed exam will result automatically in a mark of zero. In case of illness or other sudden cause proper documentation will be required, and a make-up exam and/or presentation will be rescheduled as soon as it is convenient.

NOTE: A note from a medical professional or clinic is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. It does not excuse you from everything under the sun, nor does it guarantee you to an extension. Extended absences from tutorials and/or significant delays to the submission of work must be communicated with the Course Director and TA as soon as the situation becomes relevant. Potential extensions must be discussed with your CD personally. Crucially, issues that fall under the purview of Student Accessibility Services must be resolved with the said office at York. Students wishing to receive accommodation of this kind must contact York's Student Accessibility Services and obtain a letter from that office and provide a copy to the Course Director. Course Directors in general are neither equipped nor trained to engage with these issues. Their website is listed here: <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Important Deadlines for 2020-2021 Courses:

Last day to enrol in this course without the permission of the instructor: September 22, 2020

Last day to enrol in this course with the permission of the instructor: October 27, 2020

Last day to drop this course without receiving a grade: February 5, 2021

Course withdrawal period: February 6 – April 12, 2021

Academic Honesty Statement:

Violations of the York Senate Policy on Academic Honesty will be treated severely. Recent penalties have included failure in the course, suspension from the University, and withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate. Cheating during in-class or take-home examinations, collaborating on written assignments, failing to use quotations marks and citations when using or paraphrasing the printed or electronically disseminated work of others, aiding or abetting academic misconduct, and violating any other part of the Policy on Academic Honesty will result in penalties. For further details, see the relevant part of the York Website: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

If you are still in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, come and check with me.

Course Books and Website:

The readings for this course will be hosted on Moodle, so make sure you have regular access.

There are no books to purchase for our class, but we will make use of York Library's ebook service.

If you want some general books to fill out the historical narrative, here are some available at the library:

Mary Boatwright et al, *A Brief History of the Romans* 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, 2013.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3665361>

J. A. Crook et al, *The Cambridge Ancient History*, vol. 9. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2614252>

Alan J. Bowman et al, *The Cambridge Ancient History*, vol. 10. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2614253>

Nathan Rosenstein and Robert Morstein-Marx, *A Companion to the Roman Republic*, ch.6-9. Blackwell, 2006.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2216387>

David S. Potter, *A Companion to the Roman Empire*, ch.6. Blackwell, 2006.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2563158>

H. H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero: a History of Rome from 133BC to AD68*. Routledge, 1988.
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/1113820>

Hilary Swain and Mark Everson Davies, *Aspects of Roman History: 82BC – AD14*. Routledge, 2010.

<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3299414>

Harriet I. Flower, *Roman Republics*. Princeton, 2010.

<https://ocul->

yor.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_YOR/q36jf8/alma991032983589705164

Other Information:

Religious Observance Accommodation:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

The History Department: The department's email for general inquiries is lapshist@yorku.ca.

The History Department website: Upcoming events, resources for undergraduate history students, faculty and staff information, and much more: <https://history.laps.yorku.ca/>

Undergraduate Program in History: links to information on history major career paths, degree programs (what is required for majors, minors, etc.), and degree checklists:

<http://history.laps.yorku.ca/undergraduate-program/>

History Advising Hours: The Director of Undergraduate Studies is Prof. Adrian Shubert, and he can be contacted at dushist@yorku.ca. As well as answering questions by email, he will arrange a conversation on Zoom if you wish. Please note that no grade information will be discussed via email.

The Writing Centre: One-to-one help with a writing instructor on any writing assignment. You will need to enroll to set up your appointment, though they also offer some drop-in sessions. The enrollment link and further information is found at <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/>. Bring a copy of your assignment to your appointment.

York University Libraries: Links to the main catalogue, e-resources, on-line help chat line with librarian, and many other research aids: <https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/>

SPARK [Student Papers and Academic Research Kit]: This is an on-line tutorial that provides handy tips and tools for understanding and successfully completing university-level assignments.

Go to <https://spark.library.yorku.ca>

Student Accessibility Services: <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Student Accessibility Services provides academic accommodation and support to students with disabilities in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Commission's [Policy on accessible education for students with disabilities](#) and York University Senate Policy on [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

York Student Code of Conduct: <http://oscr.students.yorku.ca/student-conduct>

Academic Integrity Tutorial: http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/index.html

History department policy on grade reappraisals, including link to the grade reappraisal form:
<http://history.laps.yorku.ca/students/grading-system/>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

(Note: Depending on progress and scheduling, these are subject to change)

Sept 14: Introduction - Sources and Historical Method

Sept 21: Introduction - Foundation(s) of Rome and the Republican Constitution

Livy, *History of Rome* I

Polybius, *Histories* 6.12.1-16.5

Mouristen, 'The Incongruence of Power: The Roman Constitution in Theory and Practice' in *Companion to Greek Democracy and Roman Republic*.

Sept 28: Building an Empire - Roman Expansion during the Republic

Livy, *History of Rome* 9.4.10-14

Lucilius, *Satires* 26.708-11

Pausanias, *Description of Greece* 7.16.1-10

Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Elder*

Polybius, *Histories* 1.1-15

Rosenstein, 'Introduction: Agriculture in Italy from Hannibal to Tiberius Gracchus' in *Rome at War*.

Oct 5: Seeds of Revolution - Tiberius Gracchus

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.1-18

Plutarch, *Life of Tiberius Gracchus*

Cicero, *On Duties* 2.73-85

CIL I(2).585

De Ligt, 'Roman Manpower and Recruitment during the Middle Republic' in *A Companion to the Roman Army*.

Oct 10 – 16: Reading Week (no class)

Oct 19: Gaius Gracchus and the Rise of Marius

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.18-27

Plutarch, *Life of Gaius Gracchus*

Sallust, *The Jugurthine War*

Article Review 1 Due

Oct 26: The Sordid Career of Marius, the Novus Homo

Plutarch, *Life of Marius*

Cicero, *On Duties* 3.79

Livy, *Periochae* 65, 67, 68

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.55-56, 60

ILS 59

Nov. 2: Rome, her Allies, and the Social Wars

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.34-53

Livy, *Periochae* 72-75

Velleius Paterculus, *Compendium* 2.14-17

Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Younger* 2.1-4

CIL I(2).588

Brunt, 'Italian aims at the time of the Social War' in *Fall of the Roman Republic and Related Essays*.

Nov 9: Civil War – Sulla

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.57-59, 76-77, 79, 95-96, 98-100

Livy, *Periochae* 81-89

Plutarch, *Life of Sulla* 5.1-4, 22-25, 31-34

Plutarch, *Life of Cicero* 3.4-6

Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* 7.137-38

Flower, 'An Alternative to a Crisis: Sulla's New Republic' in *Roman Republics*.

Article Review 2 Due

Nov 16: The Slave Revolts

Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History* 34.2.1-23, 36.1.1-102, 36.3.1-10.2

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.7, 116-120

Livy, *Periochae* 56, 58-59, 97

Strabo, *Geography* 6.2.6-7

Cicero, *Against Verres* 2.5.5-8

Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Elder* 21

Plutarch, *Life of Crassus* 8-11

Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Younger* 8.1-2

Nov 23: Pompey's Special Commands (and some pirates of the Mediterranean)

Plutarch, *Life of Pompey* 1-42

Livy, *Periochae* 96-97, 99-102

Appian, *Civil Wars* 1.121

Cicero, *On the Command of Pompey* (aka *Pro Lege Manilia*)

Nov 30: Cicero the Politician

Sallust, *Conspiracy of Catiline*

Cicero, *In Defence of Murena* 52-53

Cicero, *Against Catiline* 1

Cicero, *Letters to his Friends* 5.7

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 1.13.4

Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* 7.116-17

Dio, *Roman History* 38.30.1-39.8.3

Mouristen, 'Plebs and Politics' in *Plebs and Politics in the Late Roman Republic*.

Dec 7: Review

Essay 1 Due

Jan 11: The Three-Headed Monster: Rome's First Triumvirate

Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 1-14

Plutarch, *Life of Crassus* 7, 14-15

Dio, *Roman History* 37.49.1-50.6

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 2.1, 2.3, 2.16, 2.18, 2.19

Appian, *Civil Wars* 2.8-16

Velleius Paterculus, *Compendium of Roman History* 2.44.1-3

Suetonius, *Life of Caesar* 19.2-20.2

Wiseman, 'Competition and Co-operation' in *Roman Political Life*.

Jan 18: Caesar's Conquest of Gaul

Caesar, *Gallic Wars* 1, 7

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 1.19

Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 15-27

Appian, *Civil Wars* 2.17-18

Ramage, 'The Populus Romanus, imperium, and Caesar's presence in the *De Bello Gallico*' in *Athenaeum* 90.

Jan 25: Road to Civil War

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 4.5, 7.3, 8.3, 9.7C, 9.16,

Cicero, *Letters to his Friends* 8.1, 8.8, 8.14

Caesar, *Gallic War* 8.49-55

Caesar, *Civil War* 1.1-5, 1.8-11

Appian, *Civil Wars* 2.21-29, 2.34

Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 28-48

Plutarch, *Life of Crassus* 15-16

Dio, *Roman History* 40.50.3-5

Suetonius, *Life of Caesar* 27-30

Feb 1: Civil War – Caesar and his Dictatorship

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 6.8, 7.3, 7.6-9, 10.8A&B, 11.6, 11.9

Cicero, *Letters to his Friends* 6.6, 11.28

Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 49-69

Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Younger* 52-55, 70-73

Cicero, *In Defence of Marcellus* 13, 15

Cicero, *On Divination* 1.118-19

Suetonius, *Life of Caesar* 41-44, 76, 78-80, 82-83

Dio, *Roman History* 43.50.1-51.9

Feb 8: The Aftermath and the Rise of Octavian

Appian, *Civil Wars* 3.1-22

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 14.4-5, 14.9-10, 14.12-13, 14.13B, 15.12

Cicero, *Letters to Brutus* 1.3

Cicero, *Philippics* 1

Plutarch, *Life of Antony* 2-4

Plutarch, *Life of Cicero* 45-46

Livy, *Periochae* 116-119

Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 1-11

Essay Thesis Due

Feb 13 – 19: Reading Week (no class)

Feb 22: The Second Triumvirate

Appian, *Civil War* 3.96-4.11

Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 12-16, 91, 94-96

Plutarch, *Life of Cicero* 47-49

Plutarch, *Life of Antony* 18-23

Livy, *Periochae* 120-127

Morstein-Marx and Rosenstein, 'The Transformation of the Republic' in *A Companion to the Roman Republic*.

Mar 1: Civil War – Antony, Cleopatra and the Battle of Actium

Appian, *Civil Wars* 5.1-11

Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 14-18, 27, 68-70

Plutarch, *Life of Antony* 24-30, 54-55

Horace, *Odes* 1.37

Horace, *Epodes* 9

Zanker, 'Rival Images: Octavian, Antony, and the Struggle for Sole Power' in *Power of images in the Age of Augustus*.

Mar 8: *The Roman Revolution* - the Settlements of Augustus

Res Gestae Divi Augusti

Inscr. Ital. 13.2

Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 26-28, 58, 72-73

Dio, *Roman History* 53.2.5-17.1, 53.30.1-32.6

Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-2.2

Ovid, *Fasti* 1.709-22

Horace, *Odes* 4.15

Gruen, 'Augustus and the Making of the Principate' in *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Augustus*.

Mar 15: Augustus and the People of Rome
Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 29-45, 53-57
Tacitus, *Annals* 1.14-15, 2.36-38
Dio, *Roman History* 52.42.1-7, 53.20.1-22.1
Justinian, *Digest* 1.12.1, 15.3
Syme, *The Roman Revolution*, ch.24.

Mar 22nd: Augustus and the Moral Legislations
Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* 34.1-2
Dio, *Roman History* 54.16.1-5, 7; 55.2.5-7; 56.3.3-5, 10.1-3
Horace, *Odes* 3.1-6, 14, 24
Horace, *Carmen Saeculare*
Tacitus, *Annals* 2.33, 37-38; 3.24-28, 52-55
Various legal documents
Galinsky, 'The Legislation on Morals and Marriage' in *Augustan Culture*.

Mar 29: Augustan Literature and Propaganda – Vergil, Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid
(selections)
Kennedy, 'Augustan and anti-Augustan: Reflections on terms of reference' in *Poetry and Propaganda in the Age of Augustus*.

Apr 12: Review
Major Essay Due