

THE ROMAN WORLD  
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This course provides an introductory look at the *Roman World* from its Etruscan roots to the rise and stabilization of Islam formed in the heart of the Byzantine and Sassanid empires. This is nearly a millennium and a half of far too neglected narrative, geography, art, cultural and political history. We enter this discussion with Mediterranean societies merely forming. We leave it with a fair glimpse of the early modern world standing on the shoulders of a severely weakened late antique culture and court.

This world produced enduring political structures, myths still reiterated and emulated, and the art and architecture of this world is still with us today. This world produced the three major monotheistic traditions as well as nurtured countless pagan cults and traditions only thinly veiled today.

REQUIREMENTS: Two in-class quizzes; two 5-page papers that comprise 80% of your grade. Your presence and participation constitutes the remaining 20%.

- 1/26 Early History; ETRUSCAN culture; developing *ROMANNESS*; Roman religiosity; P 9-54
- 1/28 EXPANSION; wars abroad; *IMPERIUM*; *Our Sea*; Carthage; Hannibal; the Punic Wars; P 55-84
- 2/2 Claiming THE EAST: An Empire without End; the Peace of Apamea; Polybius; P 85-99
- 2/4 HELLENISM as a Power in the Roman World – material and political traces; R
- 2/9 The Decline of the ROMAN REPUBLIC – No team of rivals; P 99-138
- 2/11 CAESAR and the Triumvirates; Civil War; P 139-164; G 3-48
- 2/16 AUGUSTUS: The Formation and Rise of the Empire; P 165-179; G 28-46; R. Prof. Beth Severy;
- 2/18 The LITERATURE of the late Republic and Early Empire - readings
- 2/23 The ARCHITECTURE and ARCHAEOLOGY of Rome and the Early Roman Empire
- 2/25 The EARLY EMPIRE; Goodman 47-66; P 180-212
- 3/2 REFLECTIONS on Forging EMPIRE – Good and Bad, How it Worked; P 226-238; G 81-158
- 3/4 REACTIONS to Roman RULE; G 159-286; R
- 3/9 Rome and PARTHIA; R
- 3/11 In-Class Quiz - Spring Break-
- 3/23 3RD c. to the 1st CHRISTIAN EMPEROR; The FALL of Rome? P 251-300; R; Eusebius/Perpetua
- 3/25 and 3/30; Emerging JUDAISM – a Roman Religion – R; G 302-314
- 4/1 and 4/6; Another Roman Religion – Early CHRISTIANITY; R; G 315-330
- 4/8 The CHRISTIANIZATION of the Empire: Eusebius, the Bible, Codes and Creeds; R
- 4/13 Rome has Moved! The NEW ROME; Parthians to Sassanids; P. 301-334
- 4/15 BYZANTIUM and the SASSANID World; A. 1-56
- 4/20 The RISE and expansion of ISLAM; A. 57-70; readings
- 4/22 The collapse of the Sassanids and Whirlwind of the Umayyads; R
- 4/27 ABBASID culture and the revitalization of late antique society; A 70-122; R
- 4/29 The Roman World at the Edge of LATE ANTIQUITY; Reflections on a millennium of Empire
- 5/4 In-Class Quiz

A = M. Angold, *Byzantium: The Bridge from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, (Phoenix Press: London; 2005)

G = M. Goodman, *The Roman World 44 BC – AD 180*, (New York/London: Routledge; 1997)

P = D. Potter, *Ancient Rome: A New History*, (Thames & Hudson: New York; 2009).

R = Readings supplied on-line as we proceed

