I. GENERAL SYLLABUS: OVERVIEW

A. Credit
1. Since HIS 233C is clustered with ENG 112C/FS 212C, you must register concurrently for either ENG 112C or FS 212C. This combination of HIS 233C and ENG 112C or FS 212C will fulfill the Intellectual Perspective (IP) Cluster requirement.
2. You may use HIS 233C concurrently to fulfill the IP requirement in Humanity & Culture (HC).
3. If you are a History major or minor, you may also use HIS 233C concurrently as one of the courses required for the major or minor.
4. You may use HIS 233C as a general elective course.

B. Required Text

C. Focus
HIS 233C will survey Roman political and cultural history from the origins of the city (ca. 8th century BC/BCE) to the end of the Western Empire (476 AD/CE). Special attention will be given to an examination of some of the primary sources for various periods of Roman history.

D. Objectives and Outcomes
• To consider critically issues such as the location and exercise of political power in the Roman Republic and Empire; the reasons for, and practice of, Roman imperialism; the dynamics of Roman society (e.g., class structure, slavery, the role of women, the integration of non-Italic ethnic groups into Roman society); and the relation between religion and the state.
• To help you understand how Roman culture was influenced by, and was the product of, the interaction of many forces (historical, political, socio-economic, religious).
• As part of the cluster with ENG 112C/FS 212C, to consider critically the following questions:
  o How Roman historical personages, events, and culture are presented in a film medium, so as to both challenge and enable you to view historical films more critically and insightfully.
  o Why screen writers and film makers continue to find Roman history and culture a relevant subject for major commercial films.

These objectives will be accomplished by a combination of readings, formal presentations by the instructor, discussions on the assigned readings, the watching and discussion of selected films, and papers that focus on aspects of the adaptation of history to film. Readings will include both primary and secondary texts. Learning strategies will include both individual and cooperative work.

E. Assessment
Course outcomes and objectives will be assessed through the following assignments:
• Required readings in both primary and secondary texts.
• Periodic quizzes on the assigned readings.
• Participation in general class discussions.
• Short papers (see further below in part II.A.1 of this syllabus).
• Formal examinations (see further below in part II.A.1 of this syllabus).

F. Course Requirements
1. You will be expected to do all of the following:
• Attend class regularly, prepared to participate in discussions or other types of activities dealing with the assigned readings (see the separate Assignment Schedule).
• Take all quizzes and the examinations.
• Do the common cluster papers.
2. More than two absences during the semester will generate a penalty in the class participation component of your final course grade (see Part II of this syllabus): an automatic “D” for three absences, and an automatic “F” for four or more absences. If you have a special circumstance that necessitates more than two absences, you must discuss this with the instructor, who will decide whether to grant a special exemption to the normal policy on absences from class.

3. You will be allowed no absences from quizzes or the examinations without penalty. The penalty for an absence from a quiz will be an automatic zero for that quiz; the penalty for an absence from an examination will be an automatic “F” for that examination. If you have a special circumstance that necessitates an absence from a quiz or an examination, you must discuss this with the instructor, who will decide whether to grant a special exemption to the normal policy on absences from a quiz or an examination, and, if so, what arrangements will be offered for a make-up.

G. Other general course policies
1. Turn off all cell phones and put them away before you come into class. If you are texting, or playing games, you will be counted as absent—because you’re not really engaged in the class, are you? You might as well be somewhere else.

2. Likewise, if you fall asleep in class, you will be counted absent—because you’re really not here, are you?

H. Grading
The grading practices used for this course are explained below in Part II of this document.

I. Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is expected in all graded activities. Except for activities where group collaboration is explicitly permitted, all graded work you submit must be entirely your own. Evidence of academic dishonesty in any graded activity (e.g., cheating on quizzes or examinations, plagiarism in the papers) will certainly result in an automatic “F” grade for that activity, and may result in a more severe penalty. In general, the expectations for academic integrity in this class, and the penalties for any violation thereof, conform to the overall College policies on this matter, which are found in the academic integrity section of the 2017-18 editions of Westminster’s Undergraduate Catalog and Student Handbook.

II. Grading Policies
A. General Policies
1. You will be graded on each of the following activities:

   • EXAMINATIONS: Just before the mid-semester break (see the Assignment Schedule in Part III below), there will be a comprehensive examination that will deal with the specific content of HIS 233C (i.e., the broad survey of Roman history and culture). At the end of the semester (during Final Week), there will be a joint examination with ENG 112C/FS 212C that will deal with aspects of both parts of the cluster and will be done in groups. Further discussion of both examinations will be forthcoming in separate documents.

   • QUIZZES: During the sessions prior to the mid-semester break, some short answer/objective quizzes will be given. Such quizzes will occur in the first class meeting following the end of an assignment unit (see the Assignment Schedule in Part III below), and will cover only the readings (from the course text and from specified supplementary materials) assigned for that unit.

   • PAPERS: The two papers will be common to both courses contained in the cluster. These will be due during the weeks after the mid-semester break, at the times specified in the joint Assignment Schedule for these weeks. Although you will be submitting these papers for both courses, they will be graded separately by each instructor. Specific details about these papers will be forthcoming in separate documents.
• **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** The quantity and quality of your contributions to discussions or other types of in-class activities will be the main criteria for determining your grade for this activity; but three or more absences will adversely affect this grade (see above, I.F.2).

2. Letter grades (ABCDF), modified (at the instructor’s discretion) by a plus or a minus sign,¹ will be used for each graded activity (see above, A.1). A separate letter grade will be given for each examination and for the first paper. For the quizzes, a single letter grade (based on the cumulative scores of the individual quizzes) will be given at the end of the semester. Likewise, a single letter grade for class participation will be given at the end of the semester.

¹A grade of F will not be modified by a plus or minus sign; and a grade of A+ will be used only for a quiz grade whose cumulative average is 100% or higher.

3. The final course grade for HIS 233C will be an average of the grades earned in each graded activity (see above, A.1). In computing the final course grade, the grades for each activity will be weighted as follows:

- **EXAMINATIONS:** 20% each (= 40% total)
- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** 20%
- **QUIZZES:** 20%
- **PAPERS:** 10% each (= 20% total)

**NOTE:** The relative weight given to the graded activities listed above for HIS 233C may differ from the relative weight given to these same graded activities for ENG 112C/FS 212C. Accordingly, your final course grades for each part of the cluster may not be the same.

B. Further Explanation of Quiz & Final Course Grades

1. **QUIZZES**

At the end of the semester, the numerical scores of your individual quizzes will first be added up; then that total will be converted to a percentage and a single letter grade will be assigned, according to the following formula:

\[
\text{Numerator}^1 \div \text{Denominator}^2 = \text{percentage} = \text{quiz letter grade}^3
\]

¹Numerator: Total number of points earned for all quizzes, including bonus points.
²Denominator: Total points possible for all quizzes, excluding bonus points and quizzes missed due to excused absences.
³Quiz letter grade: This will be based on the following percentage ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% or higher</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92%-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%-91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82%-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72%-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%-71%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62%-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%-61%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% or lower</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Percentages that result in a fractional value of .51 or higher are rounded up to the next whole number—e.g., 69.51-69.99 → 70 (= C-, not D); 87.51-87.99 → 88 (= B+, not B); etc.

2. **FINAL COURSE GRADES**

When averaging the various letter grades (see II.A.3 above), the following numerical equivalents are used:¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹These whole numbers are the College’s official numerical equivalents for each letter grade, multiplied by 3, and then rounded (up or down) to the nearest whole number (e.g.: A- = 3.7000 x 3 = 11.100 → 11.000; C+ = 2.300 x 3 = 6.900 → 7.000; etc.). **Neither the College nor the instructor uses a letter grade of F+ or F-**. However, although the College does not officially recognize (or record) a grade of A+, where the instructor allows this grade (for the quiz grade), the (hypothetical) College numerical equivalent 4.300 x 3 = 12.900 → 13.000 is used.
III. Units & Assignment Schedule

NOTES:
2. “Supplements” refers to various documents prepared by the instructor to supplement the readings from the principal textbook. These will normally not be distributed in print form, but rather will be posted to the D2L system.
3. The assigned readings should be completed as early as possible in the range of dates specified for each of the units, but in any event by the last date listed for each unit.
4. The instructor reserves the right to alter any part of this schedule as conditions may warrant. Any such revisions will be duly posted as an amendment to the current schedule.

AUG 29  Introduction to the Cluster [plenary session; ca. 30 min.]

AUG 29, 31; SEP 5  Unit I: Rome’s origins; the development of a traditional culture; its growth from a village to a regional power
Assignment: Boatwright: pp. 1-49 (= cc. 1-2)
Supplements:
- Roman History: Outline of the Major Periods
- Development of the Roman Social Classes
- The Roman Republican Government after...287 BC/BCE

SEP 7, 12, 14  Unit II: The external growth of the Roman Republic to an empire and to a world power; internal effects on Roman life & society
Assignment: Boatwright: pp. 50-86 (= cc. 3 & 4 [part; stop at: TIBERIUS GRACCHUS])
Supplements:
- The Growth of the Roman Republic (242-44 B.C.)
- Roman Provincial Administration under the Republic
- The Political Subjugation of the Hellenistic World to Rome

SEP 19, 21, 26  Unit III: The collapse of the republican constitution
Assignment: Boatwright: pp. 86-159 (= cc. 4 [remainder] & 5-7)
Supplements:
- From the Gracchi to Augustus: The “Unraveling” of the Roman Republican Constitution (133-30 BC/BCE)
- The Career of Gaius Marius
- Simplified Family Tree of Julius Caesar

SEP 28; OCT 3, 5  Unit IV: The establishment of an imperial constitution; the Empire at its zenith
Assignment: Boatwright: pp. 160-243 (= cc. 8-10 & 11 [part; stop at: COM-MODUS])
Supplements:
- Differing Views on Augustus
- Roman Imperial Constitution: The Principate
- Simplified Family Tree of the Julio-Claudian Family
- Simplified Family Tree of 2nd Century Emperors
- Political Careers during the Principate

OCT 10, 12, 17  Unit V: From zenith to nadir? “Decline and fall” vs. “transformation”
Assignment: Boatwright: pp. 243-322 (= c. 11 [remainder] & 12-14)
Supplements:
- Roman Administrative Structure: Dominate Period
- A Christian/Roman Timeline
- Select Documents re: the Legal Recognition of Christianity
- Life & Society in the Roman Empire: 2nd vs. 4th-5th Centuries

OCT 19  EXAMINATION #1

***********************************************************************************************************
For the remainder of the semester, both HIS 233C and ENG 112C/FS 212C will essentially operate as one long class (9:20 am-12:30 pm—with breaks!!). During this time, you will watch a selected set of films dealing with Rome (as listed in the syllabus for ENG 112C/FS 112C, starting with OCT 26), participate in discussions related to these films, submit the two joint papers (described in separate documents), and participate in a joint final examination (described in a separate document).

Some of the reading assignments for this second part of the semester are listed in the syllabus for ENG 112C/FS 112C; however, for some classes, there will be additional reading supplements in primary historical sources relevant to several of the films you will be watching. Below are listed the readings that you will be expected to do for the indicated dates, in addition to any readings that may be assigned in the ENG 112C/FS 112C syllabus for these same dates.

[OCT 21-24: Mid-semester break]

OCT 31  Supplement: Selections from primary sources for the revolt of Spartacus

NOV 2  Supplements: Selections from Suetonius, *Julius Caesar*
Selections from primary sources for Cleopatra and for Marc Antony

NOV 7  Supplement: Selections from primary sources for Octavian/Augustus

NOV 7  Comparative Analysis paper due

[NOV 22-26: Thanksgiving break]

NOV 28  Supplement: Selections from primary sources for Marcus Aurelius and for Commodus

DEC 5  Scene Analysis paper due

DEC 8*  EXAMINATION #2 [common exam with Eng 112C/FS 212C]:
MONDAY, DEC 8, 3:00-5:30 pm*
Date & time set by the all-College Final Period Schedule for TR 11:00 classes