HISTORY 233S: HISTORY OF ROME: SYLLABUS

Dr. A. Dwight Castro
PH 334/Ext. 7150
Office hours: TR 12:30-1:30 pm
W 12:45-2:00 pm
2nd "Walk-in" times; other times by appointment

I. GENERAL SYLLABUS: OVERVIEW

A. Credit
   1. You may use HIS 233S to fulfill the IP requirement in Humanity & Culture (HC).
   2. If you are a History major or minor, you may also use HIS 233S concurrently as one of the courses required for the major or minor.
   3. You may use HIS 233S as a general elective course.

B. Required Text

C. Focus
   HIS 233S 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 ex-amination 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 in-teraction 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 medi-um, 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 rele-vant subject for major commercial films.

   These objectives will be accomplished by a combination of readings, formal presentations by the in-structor, 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.
   - One short paper (see further below in part II.A.1 of this syllabus).
   - One formal examination (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,1 prepared to participate in discussions or other types of activities deal-ing with the assigned readings (see the separate Assignment Schedule).
      1Since HIS233S is being taught concurrently with the clustered HIS233C, which formally concludes at the mid-semester break, HIS233S students will not have to attend any regular classes (= bi-weekly TR class sessions) following this break.
      - Take all quizzes and the examination.
      - Do one paper.
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 examination without penalty. The penalty for an absence from a quiz will be an automatic zero for that quiz; the penalty for an absence from the examination will be an automatic “F” for that examination. If you have a special circumstance that necessitates an absence from a quiz or the 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 the 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. (e.g., cheating on quizzes or examinations, plagiarism and/or collaboration 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:

   - EXAMINATION: 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 233S (i.e., the broad survey of Roman history and culture). Since HIS233S is being taught concurrently with the clustered HIS233C, there will be only this one examination. Further discussion of this examination will be forthcoming in a separate document.

   - QUIZZES: During the sessions prior to the mid-semester break, some short answer/objective quizzes will be given. Such quizzes, when given, 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.

   - PAPER: This paper will be in lieu of a second formal examination. Specific details about this paper will be forthcoming in a separate document.

   - 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 the examination and for the 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.

A 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 233S 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

100% or higher = A+
92%-100% = A  82%-87% = B  72%-77% = C  62%-67% = D
90%-91% = A-  80%-81% = B-  70%-71% = C-  60%-61% = D-
88%-89% = B+  78%-79% = C+  68%-69% = D+  59% or lower = F

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>2</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 final grade of A+, where the instructor allows this grade (for the quiz grade component of the final course grade), the (hypothetical) College numerical equivalent 4.300 x 3 = 12.900 → 13.000 is used.
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, 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: Outline after...287 BC/BCE  
Roman Religion: An Overview

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: A Timeline

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  
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. . .Legal Recognition of Christianity  
Life & Society in the Roman Empire: 2nd vs. 4th-5th Centuries

OCT 19  EXAMINATION