

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Fall 1979

History 307

History of Rome: The Republic

Mr. Clover

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 307 is the first half of a two-semester course which surveys the development of the Roman state from about the eighth century B.C. to about the seventh century A.D. This course focuses on the development of Rome from its founding (traditionally 753 B.C.) to the reign of the Emperor Augustus (31/27 B.C.-A.D. 14). The bulk of this period, from the late sixth to the late first century B.C., is usually treated as the era of the "Roman Republic," and the age of Julius Caesar is equated with the "Late Republic." History 307 will deal with the evolutions and revolutions of the Roman society and economy, and with the major political events of this so-called Republican period. Much attention will indeed be paid to the "Late Republic," but with a knowledge of the pertinent social and economic events, the student will probably be dissatisfied with the traditional conception of this period of Roman history. It will be apparent that the "Late Republic" was actually an Empire, and that republican institutions were meaningless once the Empire began.

At the end of the course students will deal with various perceptions of the late Republican/early Imperial period. At first the perceptions of a contemporary, the orator Cicero, will be considered, and then attention will be given to certain modern theories.

LECTURES

Three lectures each week, plus a fourth hour for discussion of readings and lectures.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Students taking the course for THREE REGULAR CREDITS will write a six weeks examination, a twelve weeks examination OR a short twelve weeks paper (length: 8 to 10 pages), and a final examination. Students taking the course for FOUR REGULAR CREDITS have two options: (1) they may write the three examinations listed above, and a short term paper (length: 8 to 10 pages); or (2) they may write a six weeks and final examination, and a paper in two drafts. The first draft (length: 8 to 10 pages) is due in the twelfth week of the term. The instructor will hand back this draft with suggestions and criticisms, and the student will submit a revised draft (maximum length: 10 to 15 pages) by the time of the final examination.

Students taking the course for THREE OR FOUR HONORS CREDITS will write a six weeks examination and a final term paper in two drafts. The first draft is due in the twelfth week of the term, and the revised draft must be handed in by the time of the final examination. The length of the final draft varies with the number of honors credits: 3 credits - 10 to 15 pages; 4 credits - 15 to 20 pages.

N.B. THE DEADLINE FOR SELECTING ALL TERM PAPER TOPICS IS FRIDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF THE TERM.

GRADING SYSTEM

- 3 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam 30%, final exam 40% of final grade.
4 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam or paper 30%, final exam and paper 40% of final grade.
3-4 honors credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, first draft of term paper 35%, final draft 35% of final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS (* required purchase at bookstore % recommended purchase at bookstores # on three-hour reserve in Room 1191 Helen C. White)

- * M. Cary and H.H. Scullard, A History of Rome. 3rd ed. St. Martin's Press.
- * E. Badian, Roman Imperialism in the Late Republic. Cornell Paperback no. CP 109.
- *# R.M. Errington, Dawn of Empire: Rome's Rise to World Power. Cornell Paperback no. CP 123.
- * P.A. Brunt, Social Conflicts in the Roman Republic. Norton Library Paperback.
- * Cicero, Selected Works. Viking-Penguin Classic.
- %# R. Syme, The Roman Revolution. Oxford University Press Paperback no. 1.
- %# D. Kagan, Problems in Ancient History, Volume II: The Roman World. Macmillan Paperback.

SYLLABUS FOR THE FIRST SIX WEEKS

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
I-III	Rome of the kings (ca. 753-509 B.C.). The constitution of the early Roman Republic; the internal development of the Roman economy and society from the sixth to the third century B.C.; and the emergence of the Roman nobility by the third and second centuries B.C.	M. Cary and H. Scullard, <u>A History of Rome</u> , pp. 3-168; P.A. Brunt, <u>Social Conflicts in the Roman Republic</u> , pp. 1-73; D. Kagan, <u>Problems in Ancient History, II</u> , pp. 1-60.
IV-VI	The Roman conquest of Italy, especially from 390 to 265 B.C.; the conquest of the Mediterranean from 264 to ca. 146 B.C.; the nature of and motives behind the conquest.	Much of the reading in Cary's History (above) deals with the conquests. Read also: R.M. Errington, <u>Dawn of Empire: Rome's Rise to World Power</u> , pp. 3-269; and D. Kagan, <u>Problems in Ancient History, II</u> , pp. 60-162.

A similar outline of the remainder of the course will be provided after the six weeks examination, which will cover the readings and topics noted above. Students should read about 110 pages of the reading assignment per week in order to complete the readings by the sixth week of the semester.

The six weeks examination will consist of essay questions centering on the formation of the Roman Nobility and the overseas conquest. The questions will most likely contain an ancient author's perception of early Roman society and/or the overseas conquests; the student will be asked to evaluate this perception in light of his own interpretation.

SAMPLE QUESTION

The Greek historian Polybius (second century B.C.) presents the following capsule assessment of Rome's overseas conquest during the third and second centuries B.C.:

It was because of their defeat of the Carthaginians in the Hannibalic War that the Romans, thinking that the chief and most essential step in their scheme of universal aggression had been taken, were first emboldened to reach out their hands to grasp the rest, and to cross with an army to Greece and Asia.

How correct is Polybius' assessment?