



Department of Classical Studies
CS 3904G: The Life and Legacy of Julius Caesar
Preliminary Course Outline

Course Description

From antiquity to Shakespeare to HBO's Rome, the figure of Julius Caesar continues to fascinate. Through close readings of ancient sources, modern scholarship, and examination of later uses (and abuses) of Caesar's image, we will examine the many facets of one of ancient Rome's most famous individuals. Among the topics to be considered are: Caesar's life and career, his literary output, his influence on imperial ideology, and his reception and legacy in modern Western culture.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course successfully will have read closely in translation a survey of text by and about Julius Caesar. They will have become familiar with the political, literary, and cultural history of the late Roman republic. In addition, they will gain knowledge of the ways in which the figure of Julius Caesar has been deployed and appropriated by later cultures from the Roman imperial era through the twentieth century. They will be able to evaluate evidence from ancient and modern texts and visual culture, and gain awareness of the ways in which ancient history informs modern history.

Learning Outcomes

Successful students will develop their skills in the close reading, analysis, and interpretation of ancient texts and the modern reception of such texts. They will gain expertise in developing a research question and appropriate avenues for investigating it. Students will gain experience in writing, both in the context of a formal research paper, and in short responses to the assigned readings and/or visual material. Students will develop their interpersonal communication skills through small group discussion and responses to directed readings on the topic of the figure of Julius Caesar.

Contact Details

Office: Lawson 3206 (next to the main office)
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Phone: 519-661-2111 x87481
Office Hours: TBD

Class Meetings

The course meets MWF from 2:30-3:30 in Physics & Astronomy 117.

Course Texts and Resources

1. Caesar, *The Gallic War* (trans. Carolyn Hammond). Oxford Paperbacks. 2008. ISBN 978-0199540266.
2. Caesar, *The Civil War* (trans. John Carter). Oxford Paperbacks. 2008. ISBN 978-0199540624
3. Plutarch, *Roman Lives: A Selection*. (trans. Philip Stadter). Oxford Paperbacks. 2008. ISBN 978-0199537389
4. Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars* (trans. Catherine Edwards). Oxford Paperbacks. 2008. ISBN 978-0199537563
5. Lucan, *Civil War* (trans. Matthew Fox). Penguin. 2012. ISBN 978-0143106234.
6. Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*. Folger Shakespeare Library. 2004. ISBN 978-0743482745
7. Other materials will be made available on the Course site at OWL.

(textbooks will be available at the Western Bookstore, the Used Bookstore or online retailers)

Grade Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on the following components:

1. Essay proposal and annotated bibliography: 10%
2. Reading quizzes: 10%
3. Term test: 15%
4. Primary Source responses: 20%
5. Research Essay: 20%
6. Final Exam: 25%

Schedule of Readings and Seminar Topics

Readings and assignments not yet finalized

Topics for reading, interpretation, and discussion will include:

- Life and Culture in the late Roman Republic
- Caesar in his own words (*Gallic Wars, Civil War, Speeches, Letters*)
- The biographical tradition (Plutarch, Suetonius)
- Caesar as general and statesman
- *Amor Caesaris* (contemporary responses to Caesar, the affair with Cleopatra,)
- The Ides of March and its aftermath
- Caesar re-imagined in the imperial Era
- Resistance to Caesar (Lucan)
- Caesar in post-classical Europe
- Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*
- Caesar in the 20th century (from 'Caesarism' to HBO's *Rome*)

Important Policies for all Western Courses

Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> [under the Medical Documentation heading].

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT

Accessibility Policy

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/students/index.htm>

Western Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.