



Department of Classical Studies

Preliminary Course Outline for CS 3905G: The Crisis of the Late Roman Republic

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As Rome came into conflict with Carthage in the mid-third century BCE, foreign relations took on a new meaning: for the first time, the city on the Tiber played a part on the world stage. Some two hundred years later, the face of the Roman republic was about to change forever. In surveying the history of Rome from the third to first centuries BCE, we will examine the particular problems and developments in the Roman constitution and administrative system; the organization of the military; the question of Rome's "empire"; personal politics and the relationship between culture, history and the literature of the period. Sample topics for research and discussion include: was the 'fall' of the Republic inevitable? Can we determine when the Republic ended? How much do our own modern ideas about politics and empire affect our answers to these questions?

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Successful students will:

- develop understanding and appreciation of Roman history and literary texts
- increase skill in analytical and critical reading
- expand research skills, using databases and traditional research methods
- sharpen verbal expression, writing skills, and organization of ideas
- gain insight into ancient cultures, history, and politics

COURSE FORMAT:

A combination of lectures, discussion, and close analysis of primary source text readings (in English translation)

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT METHODS

Evaluation will be based on (1) active participation in discussion sessions; (2) annotated readings; (3) midterm test; (4) research paper or similar writing assignment; and (5) final examination

BOOKS AND REQUIRED RESOURCES:

This information will be available closer to the start of the course. Where possible, open-source books and resources will be used.