Department of Classical Studies

Course Outline for CS 4450G: The Crisis of the Late Roman Republic

Course Location: PAB 36
Course Times: MWF 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Instructor: Dr. Debra L. Nousek
E-mail: dnousek@uwo.ca
Office: Lawson Hall 3206
Office Hours: TBA
Course Website: See OWL

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course uses Reacting to the Past pedagogy to explore the complex, shifting, and at times chaotic history of the Late Roman Republic. Within the context of the historical record as we have come to know it, students will prepare for and participate in two active role-playing ‘games’ that cover the Conspiracy of Catiline in 63 BCE (The Crisis of Catiline) and the aftermath of the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BCE (Beware the Ides of March). Students will take on the roles of known historical figures, researching the personal, political, and social background of their characters, and then bring those characters to life as they create a version of history that develops organically from the actions and reactions of the characters.

NOTE ON REACTING TO THE PAST CURRICULUM:
Please be advised that this class consists primarily of assignments designed around the Reacting to the Past curriculum. This is a highly interactive, game-based, student-centered history learning technique that will require active participation, outside research, and extensive cooperation and planning with other students both in the classroom and outside of class. If you do not feel you can commit to consistently participating and working with your team, this may not be the class for you. It will not be possible to remain on the sidelines or passively absorb information if you want to succeed in this course.

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

REQUIRED TEXT: (available at the Western University Bookstore, or online)

*Additional readings and course materials will be available via OWL and/or the instructor*

**EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT METHODS**

1. Historical Information Quiz: 20%
2. Character Research Study: 2 x 5% = 10%
3. Speech to the Senate: 2 x 15% = 30%
4. Active Participation in *Reacting to the Past* Games: 25% (+1-2% possible bonus to course grade for ‘winning’ the game(s))
5. Reflection Essay: 15%

**NOTE:** Attendance is required. In order to play your character’s role effectively, you must be present to participate (unless you have been assassinated, in which case, the GameMaster may intervene 😊).

**A FURTHER NOTE ON EVALUATION:**
Your course grade will be based on your performance in classroom discussions, on essays you will write at home and present to the class, and on your performance in the *Reacting to the Past* simulations. To do well in this class, you will need to do the reading assignments before class sessions and participate in both discussions and the games. In evaluating your game performance, you will be evaluated on how well you achieved the “victory objectives” defined for your assigned role in each game, as well as your overall performance in game simulations and how well prepared and persuasive you are in your roles. You will find that it is not possible to do well without having done the readings.

**Important Policies**

**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**
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).

**SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**WESTERN POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION FOR ABSENCES**
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)
Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must either complete a Self-Reported Absence Form (provided the conditions for submission are met) or apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.**

In addition to completing a Self-Reported Absence Form or applying to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty, students seeking academic accommodation must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or Student Medical Certificate, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

**WESTERN 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 visit the [Accessibility Services](#) website.

**ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**
Student Accessibility Services (SAS) plays a central role in Western’s efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. SAS arranges academic accommodation for classes, exams, internships and other course or program activities. SAS also provides digital and Braille textbooks, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction for students with learning disabilities, access to computer labs that are equipped with assistive technology, referrals for assessments and other services, and bursaries for students who meet OSAP’s eligibility criteria. You may wish to contact SAS at 519 661-2111 x 82147 or visit the [SAS website](#) for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the [Registrar’s website](#).

**MENTAL HEALTH**
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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**NOTE**
The course requirements and/or grade weighting might change if the method of course delivery is required to be changed.
## Schedule of Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Plans for the Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 10-14</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; RTTP pedagogy; Intro to the Roman Republic</td>
<td><em>Rubicon</em>: preface, Ch. 1 (pp. xiii-30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 17-21</td>
<td>Roman expansion; aristocratic competition; Italian unrest</td>
<td><em>Rubicon</em>: ch. 2 &amp; 3 (pp. 31-81)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24-28</td>
<td>Civil war and its aftermath; ambition, politics and oratory</td>
<td><em>Rubicon</em>: ch. 4 &amp; 5 (pp. 82-149)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 31-Feb. 4</td>
<td>Luxury and excess at Rome, Pompey in the East, urban gang warfare</td>
<td><em>Rubicon</em>: ch. 6 &amp; 7 (pp. 150-211)</td>
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<td>Feb. 7-11</td>
<td>Topography of Rome, life as a citizen, social issues</td>
<td><em>Rubicon</em>: ch. 8 &amp; 9 (pp. 212-296)</td>
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<td>Feb. 14-18</td>
<td>The turbulent 50s BCE; HISTORICAL QUIZ (Fri. Feb. 18)</td>
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<td><em>Reading Week Feb 20-27</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28-Mar. 4</td>
<td>Crisis of Catiline intro, texts, characters</td>
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<td>Mar. 7-11</td>
<td>Crisis of Catiline game play</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 14-18</td>
<td>Crisis of Catiline game play; game debrief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 21-25</td>
<td>Ides of March intro, texts, characters</td>
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<td>Mar. 28-Apr. 1</td>
<td>Ides of March game play</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 4-8</td>
<td>Ides of March game play; game debrief</td>
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