

# **CLASSICS 202-202 (On-line) Summer 2022**

## **Introduction to Roman Life and Literature**

### **Draft syllabus (6 week session: May 31-July 9)**

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**VIRTUAL Office hours through Collaborate Ultra on Canvas:** TBD

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

**All readings for the course will be available on-line as PDFs or through web links.**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course examines the period of time that spans from the legendary beginnings of Roman civilization in 753 BCE to the collapse of the Roman Republic in 27 BCE. The course attempts to relate literary texts of the Roman Republic to the social and cultural history of that period, and by doing so, offer the opportunity to raise and develop various issues essential to the understanding of Roman civilization. The literary sources will be presented within their chronological framework to relate them directly with the historical events and the socio-cultural environment that produced them. At the same time the authors and their literary genres will be introduced, as well as specific topics related to Roman society during the Republic.

By the end of this course

- you will know major events in the history of Rome during the Republic and important people who helped shape the Roman world.
- you will have explored various aspects of Roman society and culture;
- you will become familiar with major literary works, genres and authors of the Roman Republican period;
- you will be able to place these literary works in their social and historical context;

**Please read the following pages carefully. They provide essential information regarding the course and how it will be administered on-line.**

#### **COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

On-line courses are designed to allow students to work independently and to complete readings and assignments around their schedules. However, effective communication between students and instructor is essential.

#### ***Communicating by Email or Meeting during Office Hours on Canvas/Collaborate Ultra***

Please do not hesitate to **reach out to me by email ([covae@uwm.edu](mailto:covae@uwm.edu))**, if you have any questions or concerns or if you have problems accessing the material online. You can do so by using Canvas messaging (by clicking on 'Inbox' on the left menu on the Canvas main page) or Microsoft Outlook. I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

In some cases, communicating by email may not be the best or more effective way to address specific questions or problems, therefore I have set up **Office Hours on Collaborate Ultra on Canvas**, so you can meet with me online. As I mentioned above, my office hours are on **Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm and by**

**appointment.** You can find Collaborate Ultra in the menu to the left of the Canvas course page. Click on 'Collaborate Ultra' to join the office hour session on Tuesdays when scheduled. On Collaborate Ultra you will have the option to talk (you will need a headset or built-in microphone), hold a video conference (you will need a webcam or built-in camera) or just chat. If the office hours' time/day doesn't work for you, contact me and we can arrange to meet virtually at a more convenient time.

### *Canvas course home page and emails*

To do well in this class, you must plan to visit the Canvas site often, **checking for announcements on the home page of the Canvas course site**. Also, I will be emailing you regularly to remind you of upcoming assignments, exams, make announcements etc. I will be using your UWM email address, therefore, please **make sure to check your @uwm email account** or have those emails forwarded to your preferred email server (gmail, yahoo, etc.).

Finally, **be prepared to read all documents, guides, and instructions SLOWLY and CAREFULLY**. Many things we take for granted in a face-to-face course must be conveyed on-line via written documents; therefore, it is simply essential that you take the time to read all documents posted on Canvas and take the time to process and understand the information provided.

## CONTENT DELIVERY

### MODULES

The course is divided into **three MODULES** (see the end of this document for the list of modules and the date-range for each). Each Module corresponds to two weeks.

#### *Module Guides*

A **Guide** for each Module will be available on Canvas and should be consulted first at the **beginning of that particular module**. The guide will provide essential information, including introduction and brief description of topics/content, required readings, and the schedule for assignments to be completed (quizzes, discussions, etc., see below). You should complete the assigned readings first. Readings will include both ancient literary works in translation and book chapters/articles from secondary sources. You must do the readings, preferably taking notes for later review. In addition, notes and corresponding handouts (and, in some cases, PowerPoint presentations) will be available on Canvas to supplement the readings.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Within each module, presumably after completing the required readings and studying the relevant notes and handouts, students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. **All assignments will be completed on-line**. These assignments include **Reading Quizzes**, participation in **Discussion Forums**, and **Essay Assignments**. These are described below.

### 1. READING QUIZZES

There will be **7 graded Reading Quizzes (plus one ungraded Sample Quiz in Module #1)** assigned throughout the course. The questions for these quizzes will be based on the reading completed for that section of a module. The quizzes will be timed so that once you begin a quiz you will have a specified amount of time to complete it. **The quizzes typically consist of 10-12 true/false and/or multiple choice questions and you will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz**. Quizzes will be available to you for the entire period of the module. You can begin the quiz anytime during that period, but you must complete the quiz within the allocated timeframe, in one sitting. You will not be allowed to begin a quiz and then return to it later. Partial attempts will be graded too, so if you don't finish the quiz, you will receive a grade based on the questions answered. Obviously, since the quizzes are based on the material from the readings, **it is essential that you complete the readings BEFORE you begin a quiz**. The quizzes are

not designed so that you can simply look up individual answers in your texts. The time limit requires that you complete the readings and be prepared before you begin the quiz; if not, you will not have enough time to complete it. **The quizzes will constitute 40% of your final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped automatically at the end of the semester.** Remember: each reading quiz must be completed in one, 15-minute sitting. The grades for each quiz should show up under the “Grades” tab immediately upon completion. If you notice that you do not have a grade for a certain quiz after 24 hours, please contact the instructor.

## 2. DISCUSSION FORUMS

For each module, you will be required to participate in an on-line discussion forum. The discussion is designed to give you the opportunity to reflect on a reading more critically and consider a specific literary work or topic in the larger context of Roman literature and society. There will be **3 discussion forums (in addition to one ungraded Sample Discussion in Module #1).**

The format for these is simple. A question will be posted, related to the topic(s) for that module. You will be asked to write:

- 1) an **Initial Post to the discussion question**, and then
- 2) a **Reply Post to a fellow student’s post**.

You should feel free to post more often, but the first two posts will be part of the evaluation.

The first **Initial Post** should be no less than **400 words**. When constructing your argument you should use at least one specific example taken from the relevant reading. A good response should not only answer the question thoughtfully, but also offer an original contribution to the discussion.

The second **Reply Post** should be at least **150 words** and should provide constructive comments or feedback to another student’s initial post. Please note that simply agreeing or for example, saying “nice post” is not sufficient to receive credit.

You should compose your responses in a Word file, proofread them, check the word count and then copy and paste them in the space provided. Please, do not post responses as attachments.

Please note that **the three discussion posts are worth 30% of the final grade.** Please take the time to formulate your ideas and follow the guidelines. It should go without saying that you must edit your posts for proper grammar. Each discussion forum will be worth **10 points**. Posts on the discussion forums will be graded on **a scale from 0 to 6 for the Initial Post and 0 to 4 for the Reply Post.**

Participants in Discussion Forums should treat each other with respect and abide by normal rules of good taste and healthy dialogue. To facilitate discussion the class will be randomly divided into smaller groups. The grades for Discussions will be posted approximately a week after the Discussion closes. More information on the Discussion Forum will be available prior to the first assignment (see the ‘How-to Guide to Discussions’ on Canvas).

## 3. ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

For the second two modules, you will be required to complete an Essay Assignment. The essay questions will be based on both the readings and lecture notes for module topics as well as supplemental readings, which will I will provide. This assignment is designed to make you think and write critically. You should consult your notes and the readings as you compose your essay. **There are 2 Essay Assignments, worth**

**30% of the final grade.** More information on the Essay Assignments will be available prior to the first assignment (see the 'How-to Guide to Essay Assignments' on Canvas).

## STUDENT EVALUATION

### GRADING

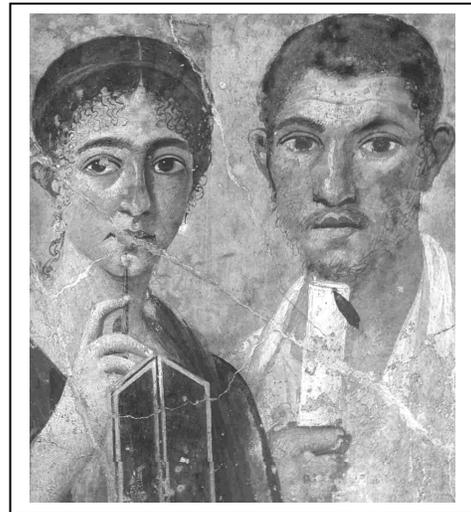
- 1) Quizzes (7, lowest grade dropped): 40%
- 2) Discussion Forums (3): 30%
- 3) Essay Assignments (2): 30%

### Grading Scale

Essay Assignments and Quizzes will be graded on a scale of 100 points.

These will correspond to the following letter grades:

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
Below 60	F



### Extra Credit

There will be **no extra-credit** options for this course. All work must be completed as assigned.

### PLAGIARISM

Any forms of plagiarism (i.e., copying text directly from your textbook, other books, the lecture notes, or the internet and presenting it as your own work without citations), will result in an F and the student will be reported to the Dean of Students at UWM. You simply cannot cut/paste word-for-word information into your assignments (Discussion or Essay). Likewise, you must use quotation marks when using a specific phrase from books or lectures. If you use information taken directly from lecture notes/texts, you must cite your source to avoid looking like you are cheating. In the case of Discussion Posts, students who copy or closely mirror posts of another student will not receive credit. All work completed should be your own!

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

For university policies on students with disabilities, religious observances, students called to active military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment), academic misconduct, complaint procedure, grade appeal procedure and other please see the following link to the Secretary of the University website: <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

**STUDENTS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE:** If any student requires special assistance please discuss your requirements with the *Accessibility Resource Center* (<https://uwm.edu/arc/>) and let me know what accommodations you will need.

# MODULES

## **Weeks 1 and 2: MODULE 1 (May 31-June 12)**

### Introduction

Ungraded Sample Quiz  
Ungraded Sample Discussion

### Early Roman History and Society (ca. 900-133 BCE)

- Foundation of Rome and Roman Monarchy (seven kings)
- Roman Republic: Rome's Expansion in Italy and in the Mediterranean
- Roman Government, Class Structure and Slavery.  
Quizzes #1 and #2  
Discussion #1

## **Weeks 3 and 4: MODULE 2 (June 13-26)**

### Early Roman Republican Literature: Roman Comedy

- The Origin of Roman Literature and Roman Theater
- **Plautus, *The Brothers Menaechmus***  
Quiz #3
- **Terence, *The Brothers***  
Quiz #4  
Discussion #2  
Essay Assignment #1

## **Weeks 5 and 6: MODULE 3 (June 17 - July 9)**

### Late Roman Republican History, Society and Literature (133-27 BCE):

- The Late Republic: the Gracchi brothers, Sulla, Caesar, the Civil Wars and the Rise of Octavian  
Quiz #5

### Cicero and his Prose

- **Cicero, *Against Verres I***  
Quiz #6  
Discussion #3

### Catullus and his Poetry

- **Catullus, Selection of poems**  
Quiz #7  
Essay Assignment #2