CLASS HIS 340A

ROMAN EMPERORS

Fall Quarter 2012
Mo 2.15-5.05

Readings and background

Acquire a copy of Fergus Millar’s *The emperor in the Roman world*. All other required readings are available online or will be provided. You are expected to be familiar with the basic outlines of Roman history from the end of the Republic to the sixth century CE. Recommended background readings include Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*; Tacitus, *Annals*; Pliny the Younger, *Panegyric*; Herodian, *History*; *Historia Augusta*; Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*; Ammianus (esp. on Julian); *In Praise of Later Roman Emperors: Panegyrici Latini* (trs. Nixon/Rodgers); Procopius, *Secret History*. This course is restricted to graduate students.

Schedule and readings

**September 24**  
Introduction

**October 1**  
Traditional approaches, I: imperial biography

Assigned readings
Suetonius, *Life of Caligula* (for this and the next session)

Recommended further readings
For recent perspectives on the topic of the seminar, see A. Winterling (ed.), *Zwischen Strukturgeschichte und Biographie: Probleme und Perspektiven einer neuen Römischen Kaisergeschichte 31 v. Chr. - 192 n. Chr.* (2011)

**October 8**  
Traditional approaches, II: more imperial biography

Assigned readings

**Recommended further readings**

Try the movie *Caligula* (1979) or M. Icks, *The crimes of Elagabalus: the life and legacy of Rome’s decadent boy emperor* (2011)

**October 15**  
**Traditional approaches, III: institutions and practice**

**Assigned readings**


**Recommended further readings**


**November 22**  
**Non-traditional approaches, I: turnover and discontinuity**

Presentation by instructor; no readings

**Recommended further readings**


**October 29**  
**Non-traditional approaches, II: theorizing autocratic rule** (*Federica*)

**Assigned readings**


**Recommended further readings**


**November 5**  
**Becoming emperor, I: selectorates and winning coalitions?** (*Jackie*)

**Assigned readings**

J. Nicols, *Vespasian and the partes Flavianae* (1978), 86-177  

**November 12**  
**Emperors and aristocrats, I: a comparative framework** (*Sienna*)

**Assigned readings**


**Recommended further readings**

November 19  Emperors and aristocrats, II: relations [Thanksgiving Week] (*Scott)
Assigned readings

November 26  Emperors and the court
Assigned readings
Recommended further readings

December 3  no class

Requirements
Present critical reports on the readings for a class, or on parts of the readings for more than one class. If you take the seminar for one quarter (in the fall), write a paper of 6-8,000 words. Grades will be based on papers, reports and class participation.

Students with documented disabilities
Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an *Accommodation Letter* for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066).