

ANCIENT EMPIRES II

Spring Quarter 2007

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This is a preliminary outline. A detailed syllabus will be posted in the winter quarter.

Required texts

- Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, vol. I*. Cambridge University Press, 1986 (from winter quarter) [=Mann]
- Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, and Richard J. A. Talbert, *A Brief History of the Romans*. Oxford University Press, 2006 [=Brief History]
- Walter E. Kaegi, Jr., and Peter White (eds.), *Rome: Late Republic and Principate* (University of Chicago Readings in Western Civilization, vol. 2). University of Chicago Press, 1986 [=Rome]
- Tacitus, *Agricola and Germany*. Oxford University Press, 1999
- *The Bible*. We strongly recommend *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (from winter quarter)
- Course Reader [=CR]

LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1 **Creating Rome**

Tuesday, April 3 Phoenicians, Greeks, and Etruscans: the western Mediterranean context

Aubet, 'Phoenician colonies' (CR 1)
Brief History pp. 1-14

Thursday, April 5 Myths & bones: Roman state formation

Livy, *History* (CR 1A)
The Twelve Tables (CR 2)
Brief History pp. 15-31

Weeks 2-3 **The sources of social power in Republican Rome**

Tuesday, April 10 Military power: the Roman war machine and its competitors

Ancient sources on the Punic Wars (CR 3)
Ancient sources on the conquest of the Hellenistic East (CR 4)
Mann pp. 250-259
for further background, try to skim *Brief History* pp. 32-33, 44-77

Thursday, April 12 Political power: assemblies and oligarchs

Polybius, *Histories*, selections (*Rome* #1)

Brief History pp. 33-44, 78-82

Tuesday, April 17 Economic power: land, trade and slavery

Cato the Censor, *On Agriculture* (*Rome* #19)

Ancient sources on the Gracchi and land reform (CR 5)

Brief History pp. 82-98

Thursday, April 19 Ideological power: a democratic oligarchy?

Quintus Cicero (?), *Handbook on Canvassing* (*Rome* #2)

Suppression of the Bacchic rites (*Rome* #26, pp. 258-260)

for further background, try to skim *Brief History* pp. 99-141

Weeks 4-7 The sources of social power in the Roman imperial monarchy

Tuesday, April 24 Crisis and restoration: the end of the Republic and the creation of a new world order

Ancient sources on Julius Caesar (CR 6)

Augustus, *Records of His Accomplishments* (*Rome* #9)

Tacitus, *Annals* (*Rome* #10)

for further background, try to skim *Brief History* pp. 142-184

Thursday, April 26 Military power: the backbone of empire

Tacitus, *Histories* (*Rome* #11)

Josephus, *The Jewish War* (CR 6A)

Mann pp. 259-282

Brief History pp. 189-195, 213, 237 box 11.1

Tuesday, May 1 Political power: rulers of the world

Pliny the Younger, *Panegyric* (*Rome* #12)

Ancient sources on provincial government (*Rome* #14-17)

Brief History pp. 184-189, 201-217, 237-246

Thursday, May 3 Ideological power and belief systems I: Religious pluralism and emperor worship

Brief History pp. 218-221

Tuesday, May 8 Economic power: the engine of empire

Columella, *On Farming* (*Rome* #20)

The Bible, *Revelation* 18

Thursday, May 10 On the margins of empire

Tacitus, *Agricola*

Tuesday, May 15 Ideological power and belief systems II: Judaism
Josephus, *The Jewish War* (CR 7)

Thursday, May 17 Ideological power and belief systems III: Christianity
The Bible, *Matthew 27-28, Acts 9-10, 19, 21-28, Galatians 5-6*
Pliny the Younger, *Letters* (Rome # 26, pp. 260-262)
Brief History pp. 268-271

Weeks 8-9 Imperial transformations

Tuesday, May 22 Continuity and change: the third and fourth centuries
Sources on the 3rd century crisis (CR 8)
Eusebius, *Life of Constantine* (CR 9)
Brief History pp. 273-297

Thursday, May 24 The fall...
On Military Matters (Rome #29)
Priscus, *History* (Rome #31)
Mann pp. 283-295

Tuesday, May 29 ... and decline of the Roman empire
Reinhold, 'Classical influences...' (CR 10)

Weeks 9-10 Comparative perspectives

Thursday, May 31 The other ancient world empire: China
Elvin, *The Pattern of the Chinese Past* (CR 11)

Tuesday, June 5 The legacy of the ancient empires