

## HI 307: A History of Rome



Dedication to the *Matres Ananiae*

Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn, Germany

(the women in front are the three female deities; the two on either end are wearing bonnets)

### **CREDIT POLICY STATEMENT:**

This 4-credit class meets as a group for a total of 4 class period hours each week over the spring semester. Contact hours consist of two meetings for lectures of 75 minutes each on Tuesday and Thursday and one meeting for discussion lasting 50 minutes (see for more detailed discussion below). The course carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc) for about 2 hours out of classroom for every class period. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for assignments and exams for this class.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By the time you have completed this course, you will have gained a deeper understanding of

- The basic features of the worlds of the ancient Romans from different social and gender perspectives.
- The background and the contexts of the primary sources which provide information on the most important Roman institutions, customs, and ideas.

In addition, you will have received instruction in/been exposed to the following skill sets:

- How to identify and articulate the difference between developments in the social history of ancient Rome and the scholarship which attempts to explain these developments (how they come about and why they are relevant). You will have been told multiple times that scholarship should be analyzed

critically and that it is extremely important to assess the quality of the scholarship based on your own assessment of the primary sources as well as the scholarship.

- How to develop and hone your skills in analysis, inference, and association.

Lectures take place in 1641 Humanities on Tuesday and Thursday between 11:00 and 12:15.

Discussion sections meet at the following times and places:

DIS 301: Wednesday 8:50-9:40 2251 Humanities

DIS 302: Wednesday 9:55-10:45 2251 Humanities

DIS 303: Wednesday 2:25-3:15 2251 Humanities

DIS 304: Wednesday 3:30-4:20 2251 Humanities

NB DISCUSSION SECTIONS DO NOT MEET IN THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS.

Instructor: Prof. M. Kleijwegt; office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00; Thursday 1:00-2:00; office: Humanities 5121; email: [marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu](mailto:marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu).

Teaching Assistant: Joseph Hanauer; office hours: Thursday 1:45-3:45; office: Humanities 4269; email: [jhanauer@wisc.edu](mailto:jhanauer@wisc.edu)

Textbook: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, Cambridge, Mass. 2011; ISBN 978-0-674-066199-6.

Note: For weeks 6 to 8 long passages from the textbook will be studied whenever its coverage of material is helpful. Entire chapters from the textbook will be used in weeks 11, 12, and 13. This means that you have to read up to 40 pages for each lecture.

Week 1:

Tuesday 25 January: Introduction to the course

Thursday 27 January: The Roman Empire: how did it come about and how did it work?

No meetings of discussion sections.

Week 2:

Tuesday 1 February: Roman citizenship

Thursday 3 February: Being a subject of the Roman Empire

Week 3:

Tuesday 8 February: The Elite(s) in the Roman Empire

Thursday 10 February: Middle and Lower Classes in the Roman Empire

Week 4:

Tuesday 15 February: Horizontal and Vertical Relationships: patronage

Thursday 17 February: Horizontal and Vertical Relationships: associations, clubs, and guilds

**Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February:** Exam: Multiple Choice Questions.

Week 5:

Tuesday 22 February: Review session for the exam.

Thursday 24 February: In-class exam.

Week 6:

Tuesday 1 March: The Roman Family.

Thursday 3 March: The Powers of the Father (*patria potestas*).

Week 7:

Tuesday 8 March: Marriage.



Palazzo Massimo, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome

On the basis of their names all three individuals can be identified as former slaves, freed by the same family. The joining of the right hands (*dextrarum iunctio*) between the man and the woman signifies that they were married according to Roman law, and thus Roman citizens.

Thursday 10 March: Divorce.

Week 8: no lectures and no discussion sections (spring recess; 12-20 March)

Week 9:

Tuesday 22 March: Women.

Readings: Elaine Fantham, 'Aemilia Pudentilla, or The Wealthy Widow's Choice', in: Richard Hawley and Barbara Levick (eds.), *Women in Antiquity: New Assessments*, London and New York 1995, 220-232; Vincent J. Hunink, 'The Enigmatic Lady Pudentilla', *American Journal of Philology* 119 (1998), 275-291.



Funerary inscription for Fonteia Eleusis, freedwoman of a woman, dedicated by Fonteia Helena, also a freedwoman of a woman; British Museum; reign of Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE)

Thursday 24 March: Children.

Readings: Keith Hopkins, 'Everyday Life for the Roman Schoolboy', *History Today* 43 (1993), 25-30; Christian Laes, 'Childbeating in Antiquity: Some Reconsiderations', in: Katarina Mustakallio, Jussi Hanska, Hanna-Leena Sainio and Ville Vuolante (eds.), *Hoping for Continuity: Childhood, Education, and Death in Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, Rome 2005, 75-89.

Length of the essay: between 1,000 and 1,250 words. Submission date: Saturday 2 April. NB Your instructor and your TA encourage you to start preparing for the writing of the short essay already in week 6. You can start by reading and making notes on the articles that have been assigned. You only have to choose one topic (either children or women).



Detail of the sarcophagus of Marcus Cornelius Staius, Louvre  
(provenance unknown; confirmed by the website of the museum); ca. 150 CE

Week 10:

Tuesday 29 March: Active reading.

Thursday 31 March: Reading the textbook.

Week 11:

Tuesday 5 April: Slaves

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 125-170.

Thursday 7 April: Freedmen

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 170-196.

Week 12:

Tuesday 12 April: Soldiers.



C. Valerius Valens, a Roman soldier  
Archaeological Museum, Corinth (Greece)

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 196-236.

Thursday 14 April: Prostitutes.

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 236-265.

Week 13:



Tuesday 19 April: Gladiators

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 265-290.

Thursday 21 April: Bandits and Pirates

Reading: Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*, pp. 290-315.

Week 14:

Tuesday 26 April: The scholarship on Gladiators

Thursday 28 April: The scholarship on Bandits

Week 15:

Tuesday 3 May: no class; work on long essay

Thursday 5 May: no class; work on long essay

Submission of long essay: Thursday 12 May.