Professor Richard Tarrant (Boylston Hall 227, tel. 496-3611; e-mail tarrant@fas)

Office hours: Monday 3-4, Tuesday 3-4, and by appointment

Head Teaching Fellow: Sondra Steinbrenner (e-mail: sondrasteinbrenner@yahoo.com)

Brief Description

The course explores the history, literature, art, and society of Rome during the lifetime of Octavian, later called Augustus (63 B.C.-14 A.D.), the principal architect and first ruler of what we know as the Roman Empire. This period witnessed the most radical change in Rome's political life during the thousand years of ancient Rome's existence; it also produced the greatest and most influential achievements of Roman culture, among them Virgil's Aeneid and Ovid's Metamorphoses. The lifespan of Augustus defines a period that can be treated in some detail and, more important, one in which almost every significant development reveals the influence of Augustus himself. "The Rome of Augustus" not only names a particular period of Roman history, but also suggests the extent to which the culture of this time was a conscious creation.

Lectures will focus in turn on the main components of the course, beginning with history and continuing with literature, art, society, and religion. Within each component, though, evidence of various kinds will be drawn on and connected; in fact, a prime aim of the course is to illustrate the use of an interdisciplinary approach in studying an ancient society.

Required Books

Virgil, The Aeneid, translated by Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam)

Ovid, Metamorphoses, translated by Rolfe Humphries (Indiana U.)

Paul Zanker, The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus (U. of Michigan)

Marcel Le Glay, Jean-Louis Voisin, and Yann Le Bohec, A History of Rome (Blackwell)

Sourcebook, containing translated excerpts from Augustus, Julius Caesar, Livy, Sallust, Cicero, Catullus, Virgil, Horace, Propertius, Ovid, Seneca, Tacitus, Suetonius, and other ancient authors, and selected chapters from secondary works.

Recommended

Ronald Syme, The Roman Revolution (Oxford)

Components of Course Grade

Quiz (at start of Lecture VII, Feb. 22) 5%

Short paper, 3-5 pages (due in lecture Mar. 1) 10%

Hour exam (Mar. 15) 15%

Section work (including short written assignments) 20%

Term paper, 8-10 pages (due in lecture May 3) 20%

Final examination (tentative date May 18) 30%

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

[Readings should be completed before the lecture for which they are assigned. SB = Sourcebook.]

I. From Republic to Principate

Feb. 1 Lecture I: Introduction; overview of course, issues to be treated; Rome at the birth of Augustus.

Feb. 6 Lecture II: Crisis of the late Republic; breakdown of republican government, war between Julius Caesar and Pompey; dictatorship and assassination of Caesar.

Readings: Excerpts from Livy (SB 17-23), Catullus 29 and 93 (SB 117-118, 119), Sallust (SB 24-27), Julius Caesar (SB 28), Lucan (SB 45-46), and Suetonius (from Life of Julius Caesar, SB 62-65); Le Glay et al. 123-148; 539-546 are also recommended as an introduction to the sources for the period.
Feb. 8  Lecture III: War between Octavian and Mark Antony; use of propaganda and image-making by both; victory of Octavian over Antony and Cleopatra.


Feb. 13  Lecture IV: "Restoration of the Republic"; the new political order is established; Octavian becomes "Augustus."


Feb. 15-17 First meeting of sections.

Feb. 15  Lecture V: The Augustan Principate at work; the empire as bureaucratic machine; reshaping of aristocratic ambitions; Augustus' first plans for a successor.

**Readings:** Vitruvius, preface to 'On Architecture' (*SB* 216), 'Birthday Honors for Augustus' (*SB* 212), Raaflaub and Samons, 'Opposition to Augustus' (*SB* 261-280); Zanker 316-333; Le Glay *et al.* 190-221.

Feb. 20  Lecture VI: Augustus' later years; the problem of the succession; Ovid's exile.

**Readings:** Augustus to his grandson (*SB* 39); Velleius Paterculus and Seneca on the disgrace of Julia (*SB* 42, 51); Velleius and Tacitus (*Annals* 1.5-8) on the death of Augustus (*SB* 43, 56-38); Ovid, *Art of Love* Books 1 and 3 (*SB* 180-207), excerpt from the *Tristia* (*SB* 177-178); Zanker 215-223; Le Glay *et al.* 226-227. Rec. Syme, *Roman Revolution* chap. 28 ('The Succession').

Feb. 20-22 Second section meeting.

II. Literature in a New Age

Feb. 22  QUIZ (20 minutes) on material in Lectures II-VI

Lecture VII: Traditional Roman views of literature; higher and lower genres; first wave of Hellenistic influence, Catullus and the 'Neoteric’ generation of poets (ca. 60-40 B.C.); the 'new poets’ and public life.


Feb. 27  Lecture VIII: Generic experimentation in the Triumviral years (42-29 B.C.): problems of political engagement vs. artistic independence; Virgil's *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, Horace's *Satires* and *Epodes*.

**Readings:** Introductions to Virgil and Horace (*SB* 122-123, 137-138); Virgil, *Eclogues* 1, 4, 9, 10, excerpts from *Georgics* (*SB* 123-136); Horace, *Epodes* 1, 7, 9, 16 (*SB* 138-141), *Satires* 1.5, 2.6 (*SB* 152-158); continue *Aeneid* (Books 4-6).

Feb. 27-Mar. 1 Third section meeting.

Mar. 1  Lecture IX: Rivalry with Greek literature, emergence of Roman "classics"; Horace’s *Odes*, Virgil's *Aeneid* as a Roman *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

**Readings:** Selections from Horace's *Odes*, *Epistles* (*SB* 141-152, 158); continue *Aeneid* (Books 7-9).

**SHORT PAPER (3-5 PAGES) due in lecture.**


**Readings:** Selections from Livy (*SB* 16-23); finish *Aeneid* (Books 10-12); W. Clausen, 'An Interpretation of the *Aeneid*' (*SB* 246-250); R. J. Tarrant, 'Poetry and Power: Virgil's Poetry in Contemporary Context' (*SB* 251-260); selections by Pound and Auden (*SB* 368-370).

Mar. 6-8 Fourth section meeting.
Readings: Selections from the authors discussed (SB 161-166, 168-169, 171-173); begin reading Ovid, Metamorphoses (Books 1-5).

Mar. 13-15  Fifth section meeting.

MAR. 15 HOUR EXAM (consisting mostly of short passages and images for identification and brief comment).

Mar. 20 and 22  Lectures XIII, XIV: Ovid, Metamorphoses. Epic form and non-epic (or anti-epic) content; Ovid's human comedy; revision of Virgil, oblique and direct; Ovid and Augustus; the Metamorphoses in art.
Readings: Continue and finish Metamorphoses (Books 6-15); Heroides 7 (SB 173-177).

Mar. 20-22  Sixth section meeting.

SPRING BREAK (March 26-30).

III. Art and the New Order
Apr. 3  Lecture XV: Roman art in relation to the Greek past and present; 'archaic,' 'classical,' and 'hellenistic' modes of representation, especially of the human figure; idealized and 'veristic' styles

Apr. 3-5  Seventh section meeting.

Apr. 5  Lecture XVI: Roman responses to Greek modes of portraying ruler-figures; emergence of an 'Augustan' style in art and architecture.
Readings: Zanker 79-89, 101-114, 135-156, 239-263.

Apr. 10  Lecture XVII: Representations of Augustus and his circle.

APR. 7-15  In place of section meetings, guided visits to the Greek and Roman collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (times to be arranged).

Readings: Zanker 167-183, 195-215; D. Kleiner and J. Elsner on Ara Pacis (Kleiner, SB 360-365; Elsner to be accessed online).

Apr. 17  Lecture XIX: Art in the private sphere; convergence of themes in literary and visual works of art; popularity of 'Egyptianizing' motifs.
Readings: reread excerpts from Virgil's Eclogues and Georgics (SB 123-136), Horace's Odes (SB 141-152).

Apr. 17-19  Eighth section meeting.

IV. The Reshaping of Society
Apr. 19  Lecture XX: Rhetoric in Roman life and education; decline of Cicero-style oratory, popularity of declamation.
Readings: Cicero, first oration against Catiline (SB 110-116); selections from the Elder Seneca (SB 208-211).

Apr. 24  Lecture XXI: Religion, public and private; the imperial cult; appeal of unofficial religious and quasi-religious groups (Isis, Mithras, Pythagoreanism).
Readings: Ovid, end of Metamorphoses (Humphries 388-392); opening of Virgil's Georgics (SB 131); "Augustus in Heaven" (SB 51-53); short texts illustrating Roman religious ideas (SB 217-218); extract from Simon Price, Rituals and Power: The Imperial Cult in Roman Asia Minor (SB 281-289); extract from Beard-North-Price, Religions of Rome (SB 290-320); Zanker 114-133, 302-315; Le Glay et al. 221-225, 247-252.

Apr. 24-26  Ninth section meeting.

Apr. 26  Lecture XXII: Roman women: role, status, and image.
Course Syllabus

Readings: Livy on the Sabine women and the rape of Lucretia (SB 19-22), "Eulogy of Turia" (SB 213-215), Tacitus on honors for Livia (SB 60), epigrams on Fulvia, anecdotes of Julia (SB 218-219); reread Sallust on Sempronia (SB 26), Seneca and Velleius Paterculus on Julia (SB 42, 51), Ovid, Art of Love (SB 180-207); Le Glay et al. 154-158.

May 1 Lecture XXIII: Marriage and the family; Augustan attempts to legislate traditional moral values.

Readings: Horace, Odes 3.6 (SB 149-150), Propertius 4.3 (SB 164-166); episodes from Ovid, Metamorphoses (Baucis and Philemon [Humphries 200-204], Ceyx and Alcyone [Humphries 272-282]); excerpts from Treggiari, Roman Marriage (SB 321-348); extract from S. Dixon, The Roman Mother (SB 349-359); Zanker 156-166.

May 1-3 Tenth (last) section meeting.

May 3 Lecture XXIV: The Augustan legacy: Augustus as icon and role model, from Trajan, Charlemagne, and Napoleon to Mussolini, Hitler, and JFK.

TERM PAPER DUE on an aspect of Augustan history, literature, art, or society or their later influence (8-10 pages; some possible topics will be circulated after Spring Break).

Fri. May 18 (date to be confirmed) FINAL EXAMINATION (three hours), testing familiarity with the material and critical understanding of the main themes of the course.

POINTS TO NOTE:
–This course may be taken to fulfill the Core requirement in either Literature and Arts C or Historical Study B, but not in both.
–Seniors writing honors theses have the automatic option of taking a deferred midterm exam on a date TBA in the first week after Spring Break.
–Lecture notes will be distributed in class for each lecture.
–Almost all lectures will feature slides, which are an integral part of the course material; questions on visual material will be a component of both the midterm and final examinations.
–Section discussions will focus on interpreting various forms of primary evidence for the Augustan period; section work will include regular short written assignments to give practice in analyzing historical, literary, and visual material.
–The course web page contains lecture notes and images, additional background material for selected topics, section assignments, announcements, and other information. The URL is http://www.courses.harvard.edu/~lac61. The access code and password will be given to students who register for the course. Students are strongly encouraged to check the web page frequently, since material will be added throughout the semester.