History 4990-003 Senior Seminar
The Fall of the Roman Republic
Syllabus

Introduction

The last century of the Roman Republic is the most documented period in all of Classical Antiquity: the letters and speeches of Cicero, Caesar’s Commentaries on the conquest of Gaul and the Civil Wars, Sallust’s history of the Catilinarian conspiracy are all primary eyewitness sources from participants. Moreover, the political and social ills of the late Republic are eerily familiar in terms of our own times. This seminar will examine the events that propelled the Republic into a situation, as Livy states, in which they could “tolerate neither our ills nor their cures.” Discussions will begin with the social and economic reforms of the Gracchi down through the first civil wars with Marius and Sulla, the “First” Triumvirate and the second civil war with Caesar and Pompey, and finally the “Second Triumvirate and the third civil war with Antony and Octavian that ended in the Augustan settlement. Students can choose any topics within the scope of this period on which to conduct original research and write a senior thesis paper.

Required Reading

The following books constitute the required reading for this course and are available at the University Book Store. In addition there will be articles available on Electronic Reserve at Marriott Library required for discussion in class. Assignments for these will be found on the Class Schedule, which will be distributed on the first day of class, and contain the weekly topics for discussion and the assigned readings.

ISBN-13 9781107642010


Sallust The Jugurthine War and the Conspiracy of Catiline Penguin 1964 Paperback
(ISBN-13 9780140441321)

Seminar Paper

The purpose of the Senior Seminar is to give the students an opportunity to do what historians actually do: ask questions of the material, both ancient and modern theories about them; conduct original research into ancient and modern sources; and examine their chosen topic and present a research paper on it. This is the primary learning outcome intended for this course, along with knowledge of the general seminar topic. Each student will choose a topic for the seminar paper in consultation with the instructor no later than Thursday, January 28th. Any topic from within the framework of the seminar is open: a
particular figure, institution, source or event. The paper will be between 18 and 20 pages, involve research into both ancient and modern sources. An **Apparatus Critica** will be distributed and discussed in class that will cover the format to be used, as there are forms generally used in classical scholarship within the *Chicago Manual of Style* but with which the students may not be familiar. The paper will be due NO LATER than Thursday, April 21st, the last day of class. There will be NO excuses for a late paper, and all submissions must be in hard copy (**NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS**).

**Grading**

Grading will be done in the usual ten point scale (93-100 A; 90-92 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-, etc.). 80% of the grade will be based on the seminar paper itself; 20% on participation in class discussion, so attendance will be important.

**Office Hours**

The instructor’s office is 337 CTIH (the e-mail address is winthrop.adams@utah.edu and telephone# is 801 581-8592), and office hours will be Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00PM and by appointment. Students are encouraged to call or drop by to discuss any aspect of the course, their coursework and paper.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disabled Student Services, 581-5020 (V/TDD), 162 Olpin Union Building. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Studies.