

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.402 The Making of a Roman Emperor
Fall 2005

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

21H.402

THE MAKING OF A ROMAN EMPEROR

MW 11-12:30

Prof. Will Broadhead

BOOKS and RESOURCES

Required books (available at the MIT Bookstore):

- M.G.L. Cooley (ed.), *The Age of Augustus* (2003).
- A.H.M Jones, *Augustus* (1970).
- Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, transl. C. Edwards (2000).
- Tacitus, *The Annals*, transl. A.J. Woodman (2004).

Online sources:

- Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).
- Plutarch, *Life of Anthony*, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).

Further reading on library reserve:

- F. Millar and C. Segal (eds.), *Caesar Augustus: Seven Aspects* (1984).
- K. Raaflaub and M. Toher (eds.), *Between Republic and Empire: Interpretations of Augustus and his Principate* (1990).
- R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (1939).
- Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome* (1993).
- P. Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus* (1988).

Essential reference works in the library:

- *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 2nd edition, Vol. 10: The Augustan Empire, 43 BC – AD 69 (1996).
- *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edition (1996), S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth (eds.).

Online resources:

JSTOR

www.jstor.org

The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

Lacus Curtius

penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home

Your source for Cassius Dio, Plutarch, and other ancient sources in translation, among other items of interest.

The Perseus Digital Library

www.perseus.tufts.edu

A wealth of information relevant to our subject: Ancient texts and translations, extensive photo archives of an impressive range of sites, and plenty of secondary material.

The Stoa Consortium

www.stoa.org

'A Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities', with links to many projects of interest.

ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION

15%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:

1. Attendance

Your attendance is required at *all* of our meetings.

2. Reading

You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to class a copy of any reading that has been assigned.

3. Active participation

You are expected to arrive at our weekly meeting having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and *actively* to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER

20%

For Week 4, you will each write a five-page paper in response to your reading of the *Res Gestae*, Velleius Paterculus, Tacitus, and Suetonius.

The question:

Your response paper should seek to characterize the portrayal of Augustus in each of the texts (i.e. in what light does each portray Augustus? How are the different portrayals achieved?) and to begin to account for the nature of the portrayals in question.

The aim of the exercise:

To develop your skills in the close reading and analysis of ancient texts and in the putting together of a coherent argument on the basis of that analysis.

Expectations of the paper:

As it is meant to be a close analysis of the texts, your paper should at least a) (obviously) demonstrate close familiarity with the texts, b) demonstrate your ability to follow academic conventions in the citation of ancient texts, and c) demonstrate an ability to select the passages from the texts that are the most appropriate to supporting the argument of your paper.

The source response paper is due **September 26**.

LEADING of a CLASS DISCUSSION

15%

Each of you will be asked to choose a class meeting from the syllabus and to be responsible for leading our discussion of that day's topic. Your role on that day will NOT be to offer a formal presentation to the rest of us, but to introduce relevant material and concepts/ideas and to generate discussion.

MIDTERM EXAM

25%

There will be a midterm exam on **Mon., October 29**.

The exam will consist of two parts. In the first, you will be asked to identify terms (people, places, important dates, monuments, etc.) from a pre-circulated list. In the second part, you will be asked to identify and offer brief commentary on passages selected from the ancient sources covered in the first half of the term.

RESEARCH PAPER OF 10-15 PAGES

25%

The paper should be a research paper of 10 to 15 pages on a theme of your choice. Your research paper will be expected to demonstrate the skills developed in the first part of the term (i.e. close analysis of ancient textual and monumental evidence) **as well as** knowledge and understanding of as wide as possible a range of the modern works relevant to your chosen theme (e.g. Galinsky, Zanker, etc.).

To encourage the early research and formulation of ideas, you will each be required to schedule a 20-30 minute meeting with me **before November 28** to discuss an outline of your proposed paper.

The research paper will be due at the start of our final meeting: **Weds., Dec. 12**.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

WEEK 1

Sept. 5 **Introduction**

WEEK 2

Sept. 10 **Republic to Principate: the 'constitutional' monarchy**

Reading:

- Jones, *Augustus*, pp. 1-85.

Sept. 12 **The *Res Gestae*: Augustus in his own words**

Reading:

- Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 23-35.
-

WEEK 3

Sept. 17 **Suetonius' Augustus**

Reading:

- Suetonius, *Deified Augustus* (= pp. 43-97 in *Lives of the Caesars*).

Sept. 19 **Historians on Augustus: Livy, Velleius, and Tacitus**

Reading:

- Livy, Preface and summaries of Books 131-142 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 54-57).
 - Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.88-124 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 58-81).
 - Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-15 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 82-94).
-

WEEK 4

Sept. 24 **Student Holiday – NO MEETING**

- Sept. 26 **Augustan Rome I: Republican Forum and Forum of Augustus**
Reading:
○ A. Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome*, pp. 43-62 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
○ K. Galinsky, *Augustan Culture* (1996) pp. 197-224 [available on the course website].

SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER DUE

WEEK 5

- Oct. 1 **Augustan Rome II: the Campus Martius**
Reading:
○ P. Rehak, *Imperium and Cosmos* (2006) pp. 31-61 [available on the course website].
○ K. Galinsky, *Augustan Culture* (1996) pp. 141-155 [available on the course website].
- Oct. 3 **Augustan Art: Prima Porta and beyond**
Reading:
○ K. Galinsky, *Augustan Culture* (1996) pp. 155-179 [available on the course website].

WEEK 6

- Oct. 8 **Columbus Day – NO MEETING**
- Oct. 10 **Poetry and the Princeps**
Reading:
○ Cooley, *Age of Augustus*, pp. 95-179 and 344-349 (= R14-15).

WEEK 7

- Oct. 15 **The Julio-Claudian Dynasty from Tiberius to Nero**
Reading:
○ T. Wiedemann, 'Tiberius to Nero', pp. 198-255 [available on the course website].
○ Tacitus, *The Annals* 12.64 – 13.58 (= pp. 242-274).

- Oct. 17 **Tacitus' Nero**
Reading:
○ Tacitus, *The Annals* 14.1 – 14.65, 15.18 – 15.25, and 15.32 – 16.35 (= pp. 275-306, 314-318, and 320-355).
-

WEEK 8

- Oct. 22 **Suetonius' Nero**
Reading:
○ Suetonius, *Nero* (= pp. 195-227 in *Lives of the Caesars*).
- Oct. 24 **Nero's Rome**
Reading:
○ J. Elsner, 'Constructing decadence: the representation of Nero as imperial builder', pp. 112-127 [available on the course website].
○ E. Champlin, *Nero* (2003) pp. 178-209 [available on the course website].
-

WEEK 9

- Oct. 29 ***MIDTERM***
- Oct. 31 ***I, Claudius***
○ Joshel, 'I, *Claudius*: Projection and Imperial Soap Opera', in S. Joshel, M. Malamud, and D. McGuire (eds.), *Imperial Projections: Ancient Rome in Modern Popular Culture* (2001) pp. 119-61 [available on the course website].
-

WEEK 10

- Nov. 5 **Imperial Rhetoric: Virtues, Vices, Panegyric, and Invective**
Reading:
○ Pliny and Cicero excerpts [available on the course website].
○ Edwards, introduction to Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, pp. vii-xxx.
○ Barton, 'The *inventio* of Nero: Suetonius', in J. Elsner and J. Masters (eds.), *Reflections of Nero* (1994) pp. 48-63 [available on the course website].

Nov. 7 **The Myth of Actium**

Reading:

- Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.59-87 (approx. 30 pp.) [available online at Lacus Curtius and on the course website].
 - Plutarch, *Antony* 14-87 (pp. 374-430) [available online at Lacus Curtius or on the course website].
 - Review: Horace, *Epode* 9, *Odes* 1.37; Virgil, *Aeneid* 8.626-731; Propertius 4.6 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, G5, G24, G38, G39).
-

WEEK 11

Nov. 12 **Veteran's Day – NO MEETING**

Nov. 14 **A new Golden Age: Augustan values**

Reading:

- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 101-192 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
 - Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 266-279 (= L20-L28).
-

WEEK 12

Nov. 19 **Emperors as Gods: the Imperial Cult**

Reading:

- Beard, North, and Price, *Religions of Rome*, Vol. 1, pp. 167-210 [available on the course website].
- Cooley, *Age of Augustus*, pp. 258-265.
- Suetonius, *Caligula* (= pp. 136-167 in *Lives of the Caesars*).

Nov. 21 **The Imperial Family**

Reading:

- Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 203-227.
 - Review: Tacitus, *Annals*.
-

WEEK 13

Nov. 26

Rival Augustuses: Mussolini and Syme

Reading:

- Raaflaub and Toher, 'Editors' preface', in *Between Republic and Empire*, pp. xi-xxi [available on library reserve and on the course website].
- Scott, 'Mussolini and the Roman Empire', *The Classical Journal*, 27 (1931-2) pp. 645-657 [available on the course website].
- Aicher, 'Mussolini's Forum and the Myth of Augustan Rome', *The Classical Bulletin*, 76.2 (2000) pp. 117-139 [available on the course website].
- Syme, *The Roman Revolution*, pp. vii-xi, 1-9, 149-161, 459-475, and 509-524 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
 - NB: Syme to be read with my key to the many passages of Latin in his text.

Nov. 28

ABC's *Empire* and HBO's *Rome*

WEEK 14

Dec. 3

The Afterlife of Nero

Reading:

- Sibylline Oracles 4, 5, and 8 [available on the course website].
- Christian views of Nero [available on the course website].

Dec. 5

Quo Vadis

Reading:

- M.S. Cyrino, *Big Screen Rome* (2005) pp. 7-33 [available on the course website].
-

WEEK 15

Dec. 10

Whose emperors?

Reading:

- Jenkins, *Re-thinking History* (1991) pp. 6-32 [available on the course website].

Dec. 12

Conclusion & Extra Credit Trivia Quiz

RESEARCH PAPER DUE
