

HIST 357 | REDISCOVERING ROMAN GREECE SPRING SEMESTER 2025

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Course Description

Rediscovering Roman Greece: The phrase "Greco-Roman civilization" implies that these two empires make up one whole. Did the Romans indeed just copy the Greeks, giving new names to old gods? Did they conquer and assimilate? Did the emperors convince the Greeks they were gods themselves? Using archaeological sites in Athens (such as the Roman Agora, the Acropolis, Hadrian's Library, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Panathenaic Stadium) as well as ancient sources and other material culture, this course will explore the long history and interaction between these two empires, from their initial contacts to the spread of the Roman territory across the Greek-speaking Eastern Mediterranean. We will take a holistic approach, investigating the primary social, religious, economic and cultural institutions of both worlds. The "Roman era of occupation" is one of the most overlooked periods in Greek history, but as this course seeks to demonstrate, it eventually had a profound impact on the subsequent course of social and political development in the wider Mediterranean region and Europe.

Learning outcomes/objectives

To provide students with a historical overview of the interaction between these two states and civilizations and within it, of the history of the Eastern Mediterranean throughout antiquity.

To familiarize students with the main workings of Roman provincial political, social and economic institutions.

To acquaint students with the main aspects of Graeco-Roman cultural, religious and intellectual norms.

An examination of the artistic and architectural developments that took place during this period, through the on-site visits of Roman monuments in Athens.

Course Requirements and Assessment

CYA Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Assessments

Student assessments for this class are based on a midterm examination, a final examination, and a final essay.

Essay

Students will be expected to write one research paper, not more than 2,500 words, on subjects/topics relevant to this course. Details will be provided on the first day of classes. Assignments for topics will be decided by lot, one month before the deadline for the submission of essays. Papers must be properly documented and should include an appended bibliography. Credit will be given for originality, i.e. illustrations, maps etc, personal observation and evidence of independent reading-research. Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided.

Students who wish to turn in rough drafts of their essays for consultation are certainly welcomed to do so.

The instructor is available for individual consultation after class or by prior arrangement.

Grades

Class Contribution 25% – Class Contribution includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, participation in class discussions, and posting occasionally on the Moodle forum. Reading assignments are to be completed before each class session. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining your grade for the semester. I expect all of you to come prepared, engage in our discussions, ask questions, and voice your opinions in class. If you are extremely uncomfortable speaking in front of a large group of students, you may send your opinions or afterthoughts in writing via email. If you never participate in class and do not send any thoughts by email, your contribution grade will be low.

Midterm Exam 25% – the 1½ hour mid term exam will consist of two essay questions selected from a list of 4 titles proposed.

Final Exam 25% – The 2½-hour final examination will consist of three essays selected from a list of six titles proposed.

Final Essay 25%

CYA Policies and Regulations

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course, at the start of the semester.

Site Visits and Accessibility

This course contains specific physical and spatial elements that are crucial to student learning and which cannot be modified. Students should be aware of these before enrolling in the course.

When meeting outside the classroom, this course requires that students walk about 15-20 minutes to pre-designated sites: the walking is mostly through the Athenian City Center and on even pedestrian streets and sidewalks. All sites are also served by public transportation.

This course will occasionally meet in spaces where there is significant background noise while the class engages in discourse.

ePolicy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that is neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

Use of Laptops

In-class or onsite use of laptops and other devices is permitted if this facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if devices are not used for class-related work.

Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This involves the production of an extended final essay as well as bi-weekly tutorials. The option to upgrade opens during the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please talk to your professor.

Required Readings

There is no standard prescribed textbook for this particular course. However, during the course of the semester, students will be expected to become familiar with specific chapters from relevant works which are listed below. These are available through hard copies, Moodle and in the form of electronic (and thus printable) copies/documents.

In addition, further background or specialist reading material, including passages from ancient sources (in translation), will be introduced to students at the beginning of either each separate thematic entity or class.

Spring 2025 Course Schedule

Day#	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)
	Jan 23-25	Field Study Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Jan 28	General Introduction Defining the spatial and temporal context of this course; a brief description of the particularities of the subject material, the sources available and its importance within a wider historical perspective
2	Jan 30	The First Contact: Greeks in the West: The gradual colonization of Sicily and Southern Italy by the Greeks after the 7th century BC. (Bengtson, 37-74; Carratelli, chapters 2-4; Daniel, chapters 2-3).
3	Feb 4	Greece and Rome through the Classical and Early Hellenistic periods The gradual extension of Roman control over the Italian peninsula and Sicily and the occupation of "Magna Graecia"; the campaigns of Pyrrhus of Epirus (280-275); Rome's first forays into the Eastern Mediterranean and Greece. Special emphasis will be placed on the ever-changing nature of Graeco – Roman relations during this period. (Forsythe, 324-348; Cornell, 345-362; The Roman World, 38-54; Keaveney, 99-114).

Day#	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)
4	Feb 6	"Graecia Capta": The Macedonian Wars; the Roman conquest of Greece. The evolution of Roman relations with the Greek world throughout this period. (Waterfield, 40-56; Bengtson, 293-322; Errington, 204-218; Green, 414-454; Gruen, 437-528; Shipley, 368-376, 380-399).
5	Feb 7	Studies on Roman imperialism: Exploring the main factors that led Rome to turn her sights on the Greek East. (Class handouts; Isaac, 408-423; Luttwak, ch. 1; Bosworth, ch. 8; Gruen, 273-288; 316-358).
6	Feb 11	Cast Iron vs Tempered Steel: The Discourse of Warfare. The Macedonian phalanx faces the Roman legion. (Webster, ch. 1; Keppie, 13-44).
7	Feb 13	Visit to the Roman Agora – The Discourse of Politics (Kouremenos, 27-46; Rhodes 189-206).
8	Feb 25	Provincia Achaea et Macedoniae Greece as a Roman province. Internal organization; the political institutions. Defining the peculiarities of Greek civic freedom during the Roman period. (Gruen, 731-744; Green, 545-548; Austin, 93-150; The Roman World, 423-454; Goodman, ch. 10).
9	Feb 27	The New Political Realities. Greeks as subjects of the Roman State: Reaction and adjustment to Roman occupation. (Goodman, ch. 15-16, 23; Ancient Perspectives in class handouts).
10	Mar 4	The Economy. Economy in Greece during the Roman occupation. Main developments. (Goodman, ch. 14; The Roman World, 329-344; Green, 382-395). VISIT TO THE ATHENIAN AGORA
11	Mar 6	Society, culture and intellectual life in Roman Greece (Shipley, 86-106; Green, 382-395; The Roman world, 685-700).
12	Mar 11	Language, Literature and Learning in the Graeco-Roman world (Tarn and Griffith, chapter 8; Walbank, chapter 4; Shipley, 326-330). VISIT TO "SCHOOL OF ARISTOTLE)
13	Mar 13	Mid-Term Exam
14	Mar 27	Industry, trade and commerce in Roman Greece. (Shipley, 330-368).
15	Mar 28	Art and Architecture of the Roman Period Visit to the National Archaeological Museum
16	Apr 1	"Barbarians" and "Graeculi"; Some contemporary accounts. (Goodman, ch. 23; Focus on ancient perspectives: Class Handouts).
17	Apr 3	Enamoring your captor: The "Philhellene" Emperors. (Birley, Hadrian, 58-64, ch. 15; Perowne, 101-106, and 123-130). Class to be held at the site of Hadrian's Library.
18	Apr 8	Religious trends/developments in Roman Greece. An Outline. (Shipley, 153-192; Walbank, chapter 12; Class handouts). Visit to the acropolis site (Lower site/South slope)
19	Apr 10	Emperor worship. Origins, purpose and implementation. (Goodman, ch. 12; The Roman World, 766-784; Moodle Doc 21). VISIT TO THE ACROPOLIS SITE
20	Apr 22	EXPLORING THE OCCULT: RURAL, FOREIGN AND MYSTERY CULTS IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD. GREEN, 396-414 AND 586-617; STEWART, CHAPTER 8.
21	Apr 24	The advent of Christianity in Roman Greece. (Barnes, 191-224). VISIT TO THE BYZANTINE MUSEUM
22	Apr 29	(Make-up T TH class) Monuments of Roman Greece: Hadrian's Arch; Temple of Olympian Zeus; Panathenaic Stadium
23	May 6	Forging a common political and cultural heritage and identity: The "Constitutio Antoniana". Class Handouts; Cecchet, 199-220; du Plessis, 189-199.
24	May 8	Roman Greece: The Epilogue. Review Session.
		Final Exam TBA

Course Bibliography (Required and Supplementary Readings)

- F.E. Adcock, *Roman Political Ideas and Practice* (1964).
 S.E. Adcock, *Graecia Capta. The Landscapes of Roman Greece* (1993).
 N.J. Austin, B. Rankov, *Exploratio: Military and Political Intelligence in the Roman World from the Second Punic War to the Battle of Adrianople* (1998). ®
 M.M. Austin, *The Hellenistic world from Alexander to the Roman conquest: a selection of ancient sources in translation* (2011)
 J. Bennett, *Trajan. Optimus Princeps* (2001). ®
 S. Benko, *Pagan Rome and the early Christians* (1986).
 A.R. Birley, *Hadrian. The Restless Emperor* (2000). ®
 A. R. Birley, *Marcus Aurelius* (1996). ®
 A.B. Bosworth, *Conquest and Empire* (1987).
 A.B. Bosworth, *The Legacy of Alexander* (2002).
 G. Bowersock, *Hellenism in Late Antiquity* (1990).
 G.P. Carratelli, *The Western Greeks* (1996).
 L. Cecchet, A. Busseto, *Citizens of the Graeco-Roman World* (2017).
 A. du Plessis (Ed), *New Frontiers: Law and Society in the Roman Empire* (2013)
 A.K. Goldsworthy, *The Roman Army at War 100 BC – AD 200* (1996). ®
 T.J. Cornell, *The Beginnings of Rome. Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars* (1995).
 G. Daniel, *Greeks in the West* (1962).
 J. Elsner, *Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph* (1999).
 R.M. Errington, *A History of Macedonia* (1990).
 M. Grant, *The Antonines. The Roman Empire in Transition* (1994). ®
 M. Grant, *The Army of the Caesars* (1974). ®
 P. Green, *From Alexander to Actium. The Hellenistic Age* (1990).
 M.T. Griffin, *Nero. The End of a Dynasty* (1987).
 E. Gruhen, *The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome* (1985).
 N.G.L Hammond, G.T. Griffith, *A History of Macedonia, vol.ii* (1979). ®
 N.G.L. Hammond, M. Walbank, *A History of Macedonia, vol. iii* (1988).
 K. Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves. Sociological Studies in Roman History, vol. i-ii* (1978).
 S. Hornblower, *The Greek world 479-323 BC* (1991).
 B. Isaac, *The Limits of Empire* (1992).
 A.H.M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire, vol. i-ii* (1973).
 A. Kaldellis, *The New Roman Empire: A History of Byzantium* (2023)
 A. Keaveney, *Rome and the Unification of Italy* (2005).
 L. Keppie, *The Making of the Roman Army. From Republic to Empire* (1998). ®
 E. Kimberley; B. Eckhardt, (eds) *Law in the Roman provinces* (2022)
 A. Kouremenos, *The Province of Achaëa in the 2nd Century CE: The Past Present* (2022)
 J.E Francis, A. Kouremenos, *Roman Crete: New Perspectives* (2016).
 A. Lintott, *The Roman Republic* (2000). ®
 R. MacIver, *Greek cities in Italy and Sicily* (1931).
 R. McMullen, *Christianizing the Roman Empire* (1984).
 R. Mellor, *Roman Historians* (1999).
 F.G. Millar, *The Roman Near East* (1993). ®
 F.G.B Millar, *A Study of Cassius Dio* (1964).
 T. Mommsen, *A History of Rome* (1960).
 O. Murray, *Early Greece* (1993).
 R. Osborne, *Greece in the Making* (1996).
 J. Peddie, *The Roman War Machine* (1996). ®
 S. Perowne, *Hadrian* (1960). ®
 K.A. Raaflaub, M. Toher, *Between Republic and Empire. Interpretations of Augustus and his Principate* (1990).
 P.J. Rhodes, *A Short History of Ancient Greece* (2014).
 C. Scarre, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Rome* (1995).
 H.H. Scullard, *The Etruscan Cities and Rome* (1967).
 H.H. Scullard, M. Cary, *A History of Rome to 565 AD*.
 G. Shipley, *The Greek World after Alexander 323-30 B.C.* (2000).
 R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (1992). ®
 R. Waterfield, *Taken at the flood : the Roman conquest of Greece* (2017).
 G. Webster, *The Roman Imperial Army, (1969)*. ®
 C.M. Wells, *The Roman Empire* (1992). ®
 T.P. Wiseman, *Roman Political Life* (1985).
 Caesar Augustus. *Seven aspects*, ed. F.G.B Millar, E. Segal (1984). ®
The Roman World, ed. J. Wachter, vol. i-ii (1978).

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