

# ARTS3283

Roman Emperors: From Augustus to Nero

Term 1, 2022



## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Nick Doumanis	<a href="mailto:n.doumanis@unsw.edu.au">n.doumanis@unsw.edu.au</a>	Monday 11-1	Morven Brown 334	042031663 6

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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## Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

## Course Details

### Units of Credit 6

### Summary of the Course

The course explores the history of Rome's first dynasty and how it managed the transition from republic to monarchy. *The Roman Emperors* considers how the new order was created and how it developed its legitimacy. You will examine the lives of Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero, and such extraordinary imperial women as Livia, Julia and Agrippina the Elder. As well as engaging with the work of leading historians, you will read the salacious and gossip-filled *Lives* of Suetonius in order to assess the merits of biography as an historical source, and analyse modern media representations of the dynasty, including Robert Graves' *I Claudius*.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse Rome's transition from republic to empire and evaluate the historiographical responses to it
2. Demonstrate ability to conduct independent research in order to answer historical questions.
3. Analyse and critically assess primary and secondary sources (online and in print).

### Teaching Strategies

The course will develop your understanding of Rome's transition from republic to monarchy, with special reference to the reigns of the first five 'emperors'. The course is delivered primarily through lectures and tutorials. Lectures will provide the necessary historical and historiographical background to each phase in this critical period in Roman history, although you will be encouraged to ask questions during the lecture. At least 20 minutes will be set aside for group discussion on key concepts raised in the lecture.

Tutorials will focus on more specific historical, theoretical and historiographical issues, and will centre on specific primary documents. You will be required to give one ten-minute presentation to the class, and supply each student with a 3 (A4) page document that includes a description of the problem you are addressing, your assessment of the problem, and an annotated bibliography. The major piece of assessment is a major essay, which will give you an opportunity to undertake independent research, and to engage critically with readings.

The research essay will require students to undertake independent research on a specific topic, to engage with scholarship in the field and to practice their critical thinking, analytical and writing skills. Engagement with the lecture and reading material will be assessed by a final exam, which will give you opportunity to think broadly about the period and its meaning.

## Assessment

This course provides a unique opportunity to immerse oneself into the world of the Caesars. Students are encouraged to delve into the lives of individual emperors and imperial women, and to relate their intimate stories to the changing nature of the Roman power structure. To help us attain a sense of what life was like in the imperial Roman family, we will watch and analyze selections of television and film dramas about the Julio-Claudians, particularly the BBC television adaptation of Robert Graves' 'I Claudius'. At least one of the questions in the class test will be on 'I Claudius'.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Research essay	50%	22/04/2022 11:59 PM	2, 3
2. Test	20%	21/04/2022 10:00 AM	1, 3
3. Presentation	30%	Not Applicable	3

### Assessment 1: Research essay

**Assessment length:** 3000-3500 words maximum.

**Due date:** 22/04/2022 11:59 PM

3500 word essay. The case studies presented in class will serve as a guide for choosing an issue to address in the essay. Written feedback will be provided. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Additional details

The essay must be based on extensive research that includes the use of primary sources and secondary sources. A minimum of 12 monographs (specialized works on a given theme or topic) must be used. Textbooks and other basic materials will be useful but they are not to be included in the count.

### Assessment 2: Test

**Assessment length:** 1000 words

**Due date:** 21/04/2022 10:00 AM

50-minute in-class test that assesses general understandings of the nature of the political revolution covered in the course.

#### Additional details

The test runs for an hour and it is based on the issues covered in the lectures. A writing booklet will be provided, but you must bring at least one pen. You will be asked to answer four questions on broad issues. Your test paper does not require footnotes or quotes.

### Assessment 3: Presentation

Each student will complete one in-class presentation over the course of the term. The presentation will be strictly no longer than 10 minutes in length. The presentation will be assessed on the quality of its content, and the amount of research that went into its preparation. Each student will supply a guide to the presentation, between 750-1000 words, for each fellow student. It will stipulate the main points and include a bibliography.

Written feedback and mark will be provided.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

### **Additional details**

This assessment comes in two parts. The first is the presentation. Each student is required to give an oral presentation. You will be asked to nominate your three favourite topics and you will be then allocated one of them. Your presentation will then reflect on the questions on the topic provided by the convenor in the tutorial guide. You will speak for 5 minutes before the class and answer any questions from your audience. You will only be marked on substance: that means you do not need to worry about your speaking voice, delivery or the quality of your PPT (if you choose to use one). This assignment is worth 20 out of 30. The second part is a handout that requires you to appraise a primary document (e.g. a passage from Tacitus or Suetonius, an epigraph) that relates to your presentation topic. This is worth 10 out of 30. More detail about this assignment will be discussed in the first class.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	The Roman Republic: An overview of the Roman political system
	Tutorial	Roman Society and the Constitution: A class discussion on the institutions and procedures of the Roman Republic, and its political culture  BBC series I Claudius: Episode 1
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	How Octavian was able to build his power base.
	Tutorial	Was Caesar the last great politician or the first emperor?  BBC series I Claudius: Episode 2
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Lecture	Women and the imperial family of Augustus
	Tutorial	The Augustan settlement: political revolution or coup?  BBC series I Claudius: Episode 3
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	Tiberius and the Praetorian Guard  On Tacitus as an historian
	Tutorial	Livia: Was she a serial killer?  BBC series I Claudius: Selections from episodes dealing with Livia and Tiberius
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	Caligula  On Suetonius as a biographer

	Tutorial	Did Tacitus treat Tiberius unfairly?  BBC series I Claudius: Selections from episodes dealing with Tiberius
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Lecture	No Lecture
	Tutorial	No tutorial
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	Claudius: A god, a wise ruler, or just a fool?  Roman Religion
	Tutorial	Why can we really know about Caligula?  BBC series I Claudius: Selections from episodes dealing with Caligula
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Tutorial	What were Messalina's political aims?  BBC series I Claudius: Selections from episodes dealing with Claudius
	Lecture	Nero: The golden years that destroyed the dynasty  The Roman state and the Familia Caesaris
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	Vespasian: the true heir of Augustus?  The Roman Empire - how did the system work? How were the provinces administered? How were the cities administered?
	Tutorial	Was Nero too young, inexperienced, evil, or stupid?  BBC series I Claudius: Selections from episodes dealing with Nero
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Lecture	The future of the Principate: from Nerva to Theodosius I  Class Test on BBC series I Claudius
	Tutorial	Why was there no return to the Republic?  Why did Vespasian succeed in establishing a new Dynasty?



## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, Penguin Books

Tacitus, *The Annals*, Penguin Books

### Recommended Resources

H.H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero*, Routledge, any edition - old but very useful

Peter Garnsey and Richard Saller, *The Roman Empire*, Bloomsbury, 2nd ed - Analyses the empire from many angles

J.S. Richardson, *Augustan Rome 44 BC to AD 14*, Edinburgh University Press, - a new detailed account of Augustus

Colin Wells, *The Roman Empire*, Fontana, 2nd edition - an general history

A. Barrett, *Lives of the Caesars*, Wiley Blackwell - extremely good and updated biographies

Werner Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, Wiley Blackwell, highly recommended for Augustus

Tom Holland, *Dynasty*, Doubleday - a lively account that does not read like a textbook

## Course Evaluation and Development

Students who wish to get some sense of how they are faring might ask to do one of the early presentation topics for early feedback. If you choose one of the late topics but need feedback much earlier, please see the convenor.

## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

### UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**Collusion:** Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

### Correct referencing practices

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has [the ELISE tool](#) available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

## **Academic Information**

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

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