

History 240 Writing Assignment #1: The Romans

GE Focus Areas: Communication; Civic Discourse-Historical Awareness

The Roman era, from its founding in 509 BCE to the fall of the western empire in 476 CE, spans the entirety of the Classic Period (500BCE-500CE) and brought about many changes to the western world. Write a 3-4 page (750-1000 word) paper discussing a historical figure or an aspect of Roman life and culture. Your paper should include an analysis of the significance of your subject in Roman and/or the history of western civilization.

Questions you might consider include: What contributions did a person make to Roman/human society? What innovations were made in a particular field? Were the changes/innovations/impacts short-term and unique to the Roman Empire, or were they broad and long-lasting?

On the day the papers are due, be prepared to give a snapshot (2 minute) report to the class focusing on what you learned in your research.

Essay topics must be approved *in advance*. You may choose from the topics below or come up with your own. *Only one student per topic.*

Possible topics include:

LEADERS:

Gaius Marius
Marcus Antonius
Julius Caesar
Augustus
Tiberius
Caligula
Claudius
Nero
Vespasian
Trajan
Titus
Hadrian
Marcus Aurelius
Caracalla
Constantine I

ROMAN LIFE & CULTURE

Architecture
Roman Legion
Roman (pagan) Religion
Gladiatorial Games
Slaves and Slavery
Roman Baths
Public works (roads, aqueducts)
Art & Music
Persecution of Christians
Roman Law
Political institutions
Technological advances
War & Warfare
Education
Women in Roman Society

WRITERS

Ovid
Virgil
Horace
Lucretius
Cicero
Augustine of Hippo

WARS

Punic Wars
Parthian Wars
War of the Roman Republic
Year of the Four Emperors
Macedonian Wars
Barbarian Invasions

Notes on format and mechanics:

1. Margins are to be no wider than 1”
2. Use a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman, Courier, Arial)
3. Papers are to be written in your own words and should contain few, if any, direct quotes from the text or other sources
4. Proofread your paper for spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors before submitting
5. Use MLA or APA for citations and format
6. Include a bibliography of all sources consulted, whether cited or not
7. The Writing Rubric, MLA Basics and other resources can be found in the “Writing Resources” folder under the Course Info section of Blackboard