

# CLA 2120: The Grandeur That Was Rome



## Time and Location

MWF, Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)  
Turlington 2322

## Contact Information

**Dr. Flora Iff-Noël**

Office hours: M 9:35-10:30 AM; F 1:15-2:20 PM  
and by appointment  
137 Dauer Hall and on zoom

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**Graduate TA: Alexander Kraut**

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**Undergraduate TA: Srija Dey**

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## Prerequisites / Credits

No prerequisites: knowledge of Latin is **not** required.  
3 credits.

This course completes the requirement in General Education - Humanities, International.

## Course presentation

In this course you will learn about the origins of Roman literature, culture and society and also study why ancient Rome remains relevant today. We will be looking at Roman literature from a variety of genres and critically evaluating the relationship between the hopes and fears the Romans had for their future and modern concerns about society.

We will analyze Latin texts by many authors from the Western Canon such as the poets Vergil, and Ovid, the philosopher Seneca, the playwrights Plautus and Terence, the politicians Cicero and Caesar, and the historian Suetonius. We will also study material

culture, artworks, inscriptions, and archeological sites to investigate the society of Ancient Rome.

### Course objectives and goals

**Content Objectives:** Students will identify unique and original aspects of Roman literature and gain an appreciation for Roman literature’s influence on our modern understanding of history, culture and civilization.

**Communication Objectives:** Students will communicate concepts, expressions, and representations of the Roman way of life clearly and effectively in written and oral form as stated in the rubrics of the course.

**Critical Thinking Objectives:** Students will analyze the conflicts and tensions that arise between the individual and one’s duty to the community, pleasure and happiness, and fear versus hope when faced with adversity or challenges. They will critically evaluate key works of literature to determine why Rome has been stereotyped and glorified in our modern world.

### Textbooks

- **Required:** *A Companion to Latin Literature* by S. Harrison (Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World), ISBN: 9781405161312
- **Optional:** *Oxford Anthology Of Roman Literature*, by Peter E. Knox and J. C. McKeown (Oxford University Press), ISBN: 9780195395167
- **All other texts and documents will be available on Canvas**

### Primary General Education Designation

Humanities (H)

Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon.

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. Courses intended to satisfy the general education requirement cannot be taken S-U.

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

### Disclaimer

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

### Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

|               |                 |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Week 1</b> | Jan. 13, 15, 17 | 1. Intro: the mythical origins of Rome & Roman stereotypes             |
| <b>Week 2</b> | Jan. 22, 24, 26 | 2. Roman values or Roman stereotypes? Plautus, <i>Braggart Soldier</i> |
| <b>Week 3</b> | Jan. 27, 29, 31 | 3. The Roman family: Terence, <i>Adelphoi</i>                          |
| <b>Week 4</b> | Feb. 3, 5, 7    | 4. Everyday life in Rome I: Catullus                                   |

|                |                      |   |
|----------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Week 5</b>  | Feb. 10, 12, 14      | 5. Cicero and the Roman Republic  |
| <b>Week 6</b>  | Feb. 17, 19, 21      | 6. Caesar and the Civil wars  |
| <b>Week 7</b>  | Feb. 24, 26, 28      | 7. Caesar seen by Caesar, Cicero, Suetonius, Asterix                      |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | March 3, 5, <u>7</u> | 8. Augustus: the beginning of the Empire (Suetonius); <b>Midterm</b>      |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | March 10, 12, 14     | 9. The beginning of the Empire seen by poets: Virgil & Ovid               |
| <b>Week 10</b> | March 24, 26, 28     | 10. Nero, the stereotypical emperor? (Suetonius)                          |
| <b>Week 11</b> | March 31, April 2, 4 | 11. Claudius and Nero seen by Seneca ( <i>Apocol.</i> ; <i>Thyestes</i> ) |
| <b>Week 12</b> | March 15-22          | 12. No class: SPRING BREAK  |
| <b>Week 13</b> | April 7, 9, 11       | 13. Everyday life in Rome II: Roman leisure seen by Seneca                |
| <b>Week 14</b> | April 14, 16, 18     | 14. Pompeii: a Roman town still visible today                             |
| <b>Week 15</b> | April 21, <u>23</u>  | 15. Conclusions; Review; <b>Final exam</b>                                |

No class on: Jan. 20: MLK day; March 15-22: Spring break

### Course requirements and grades

Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions. In this regard, it is necessary to read and analyze in depth the assigned texts before coming to class. In order to foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum. The participation grade will also include posting on the Canvas Discussion Board and reacting to another's student post at least 3 times throughout the semester.

Your grades will be based on 12 very short quizzes (one each Friday, except on weeks 8, 12 and 15; they will last 10 minutes and include basic definitions and key elements of the week; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped); a Midterm and a Final Exam (50 minutes, one image description, one text commentary and one short essay). There will also be one oral presentation (during 15 minutes, you will present on a key element of the Roman civilization connected to the week's theme).

- Midterm exam (March 7) = 22 %
- 12 quizzes = 26 % (the lowest grade which will be dropped)
- Oral presentation = 15 %
- Attendance, homework and participation = 15%
- Final exam (April 23) = 22 %

Your Graduate TA, Alexander, and your Undergraduate TA, Srijia, can assist you if you have specific questions regarding lectures, class assignments, or concept clarification within the material covered in class. Please only discuss absences with your Graduate TA, he will contact me if necessary. You should discuss broader course-related topics such as grades, letters of recommendation, etc., with me.

### Class attendance and make-up works

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Make-up examinations are rarely given and only for extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, such as a grave illness. If possible, please notify me in advance of a missed exam in order to arrange a makeup. I must have written documentation for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test.

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory.

More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized by five points for each subsequent unexcused absence. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/3 of an absence.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students are expected to complete all assigned work by the due dates. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### Covid-19 safety measures

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- You are highly recommended to wear a mask if you are sick (over the nose and the chin).
- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus.

### ADA requirements

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (Contact 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### Grading scale

|    |          |
|----|----------|
| A  | 93-100   |
| A- | 90-92    |
| B+ | 87-89    |
| B  | 83-86    |
| B- | 80-82    |
| C+ | 77-79    |
| C  | 73-76    |
| C- | 70-72    |
| D+ | 67-69    |
| D  | 63-66    |
| D- | 60-62    |
| E  | below 60 |

See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

For more information, see: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

### Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>).

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Honesty policy

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. The Honor Pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." If you have any questions or concerns, please ask.

See <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/resources-by-audience/faculty-and-staff/honor-code-syllabi/>

Certain assignments in this course will permit or even encourage the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools such as ChatGPT. **The default is that such use is forbidden unless otherwise stated. Any such use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited.** It is each student's responsibility to assess the validity and applicability of any GAI output that is submitted; you bear the final responsibility. Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of the Honor Code. I draw your attention to the fact that different classes at UF could implement different AI policies, and it is the student's responsibility to conform to expectations for each course.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit [www.counseling.ufl.edu/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* call 392-1161 or visit [www.shcc.ufl.edu/](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/) for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need.

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [www.ufhealth.org/emergencyroom-trauma-center](http://www.ufhealth.org/emergencyroom-trauma-center)

*University Police Department:* 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support,* 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. They can help e.g. with Canvas.

*Career Connections Center,* Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support,* <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center,* Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio,* 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

*On-Line Students Complaints:* <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>