March 18: CUNY on a “pause” from classes.

March 25

14. Pliny, *Panegyricus*, 1-35; 46-54; 66; 80-84
   - Pliny, *Panegyricus*, selections

15. Tacitus, *Dialogus de Oratoribus*
   - Tacitus, *Dialogus de Oratoribus*, 1-17; 24; 27-41

MIDTERM ASSIGNED

April 1: MIDTERM DUE. Otherwise class canceled.

April 7 (Tuesday follows a Wednesday schedule)

16. Tacitus and Pliny
   - Pliny, *Epistles* 1.6, 1.20, 4.13, 6.9, 6.16, 6.20, 7.20, 7.33, 8.7, 9.10, 9.14

17. Tacitus, *Agricola*
   - Martial, Book 10; Tacitus, *Agricola*
   - [review Valerius Flaccus, *Argonautica* 1, as per Buckley below]

18. Tacitus, *Germania* [Removed from the syllabus; see me for bibliography if you’re still interested]
April 22


19. Martial and Frontinus
- Martial, Book 10 (esp. 10.48 and 10.58); Frontinus, De Aquae Ductis 1-3, 64-76, and 87-93
- [Re-read the relevant pages on the De Aquae Ductis in Turner 2007 and Malloch 2015 from March 4]

20. Martial and Pliny [KAT MOORE]
- Martial 4.86, 7.26, 7.86, 10.12, 10.30, 11.15; Pliny, Epistles 2.9, 5.6, 8.6, 9.13.

April 29

21. Martial and Juvenal
- Martial Book 12 (esp. 12.18); Juvenal, Satires 1-5; Pliny, selected letters (as in Uden 2015 below)

22. Juvenal and Pliny

23. Favorinus [Removed from the syllabus; see me for bibliography if you’re still interested]

May 6

24. Dio of Prusa (aka Dio Chrysostom), Kingship Orations
- Dio, Kingship Orations 1-4 and 57 (emphasis on Or. 4).
25. Plutarch and Roman power

- Plutarch *Moralia*: 776a-779c (That a philosopher should converse with emperors); 779d-782f (To an uneducated ruler); 783B-797F (Should an old man engage in politics?); 798A-825F (Precepts of government). See vol. 10 of the Loeb edition of the *Moralia*.


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**May 13**

26. Trajan’s Forum and Column [NAN COFFEY]

- Go to www.trajans-column.org, or, www.stoa.org/trajan and try to “read” a history of the Dacian campaign via the column


27. Pliny in the provinces


28. Trajanism overseas


OR?...

29. Tacitus, *Histories*

30. Forum of Domitian / Forum of Trajan

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**Final project**

Deadline for Spring 2020 credit, TBA (about three days before grades are due)
Description

This course looks at the Roman Principate in its transition from the reign of Domitian to that of Trajan (roughly 80-120 CE), a momentous period that saw shifts in the nature and exercise of political power, the negotiation of empire, and attitudes toward ethnicity and identity, three themes that will form the emphases of our readings. All texts will be read in English translation (though knowledge of Greek and Latin would enrich the student’s experience!).

This will be history through literature, my favorite kind. Proceeding chronologically, we’ll begin with an exploration of the intellectual climate of Domitianic Rome. Some areas of inquiry include the use of memory of the Roman past among both poets and prose authors of the late Flavian period—Silius Italicus, Frontinus—as well as changes in the nature of public life in the city and the emperor’s role therein, as evident in Martial and Statius. To the extent possible, we’ll seek to recover perspectives on and of the provinces, especially the Greek East (Josephus), an area that will have more evidence as we move into the Trajanic empire with the texts of Dio of Prusa, Plutarch, and Favorinus. Tacitus will be a reference point in the second chronological “half” of the course, leading into the texts of his later contemporaries, especially the letters and Panegyricus of Pliny and the satirical poems of Juvenal. We will also look at material culture periodically throughout the term, considering continuity and change in urban topography, provincial settings, and numismatic tropes.

Our objectives are for students to familiarize themselves with major texts and debates for the period and to evaluate various scholars’ claims based on evidence from antiquity.

Readings

The readings each week are a combination of primary texts and secondary scholarship. Each session is arranged into three topics (so, about 40 minutes for each), and typically includes a batch of ancient evidence, plus 2-3 scholarly treatments. In some cases there may be more bibliography than is possible; it would be fine if, pressed for time, you’ve done only one of the articles or book chapters per topic. If you’re leading discussion, however, you should consider everything.
For the primary texts, I hope that you can secure your own copies at any library or online (Loebs would be fine), or perhaps you have them already. For readings that are hard to find, I plan to circulate PDFs, or set up an E-Reserve page, vel sim.

Assessment

Final grades will be based on the following components:

- 25% Take-home midterm essay
- 30% Two presentations/short papers
- 35% Final project
- 10% Deporman

The midterm will be a take-home essay and should require about 5-6 pages of writing. As for the two presentations/short papers, students should volunteer to lead discussion on one topic in the syllabus before the midterm and one after it. Presentations should identify the major questions and controversies of a given issue or text and review both primary evidence and relevant scholarship. An informal 5-6 page write-up of the presentation will be due from the presenter in the week following their discussion (unless this runs up against the deadline for the take-home midterm, in which case there will be an extension).

A longer paper of around 20 pages will be due at the end of the semester. The topic will be up to you – it may or may not be related to one or both of your two shorter papers. Grades of incomplete (INC) will be allowed, at which point it would be up to the student to remain in contact and submit the paper for credit.

Weekly schedule


Jan 29: Introductions

Feb 5

1. Introduction to the "period" and its texts, its problems, and possible approaches
   - Alice König and Christopher Whitton, "Introduction", in König and Whitton 2018, pp. 1-34.

2. Historical background
3. **The Flavian City**

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**Feb 12: CUNY closed (Lincoln's birthday)**

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**Feb 19**

4. **The Politics of Flavian Epic: Silius Italicus, Punica**
   - Silius Italicus, *Punica*, Books 1-3, plus other references as needed.

5. **The Politics of Flavian Epic: Statius, Thebaid**
   - Statius, *Thebaid*, Books 1-3, plus other references as needed.
   - Statius, *Silvae*, 1.1, 2.7, 4.1, 4.3

6. **The Politics of Flavian Epic: Valerius Flaccus, Argonautica**
   - Valerius Flaccus, *Argonautica*, Books 1 and 4, plus other references as needed.

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**Feb 26**

7. **Martial and Domitian**
   - Martial, Epigrams, Books 4-9 (the "political books"), with attention to poems discussed in Sullivan 1991 and Nauta 2002.
8. Statius and Domitian
   - Statius, *Silvae*, 1.1 (repeated), 1.2, 1.6, 3.4, 4.2, 4.6, plus other references as needed.
   - Carole Newlands, “Embodying the Statue: *Silvae* 1.1 and 4.6,” and “The Emperor’s Saturnalia: *Silvae* 1.6,” chapters 2 and 7 in *Statius’ Silvae and the Poetics of Empire* (Cambridge UP, 2002), pp. 46-87 and 227-259. (Or chapter 3, on Domitian’s eunuch freedman; or chapter 6, on the *Thebaid*; or chapter 8, on dining with Domitian; or chapter 9, on the Via Domitiana. Much to choose from in this excellent book.)

9. Pending deification: Domitian

**March 4**

10. Frontinus and Domitian

11. Josephus and Domitian
    - Josephus, *Bellum Judaicum*, Book 7

12. Nerva’s numismatics

**March 6: Larry Kim (Trinity University), “Style, Periodization, and Literary History: Pliny, Tacitus, Dio, Plutarch” 5:00-6:30, room 3309**

**March 11: Class canceled for a daylong event in the History Program (apologies: it had long been scheduled for March 10 and only shifted to March 11 in late January).**

**March 18**

13. Pliny, *Panegyricus*
    - Pliny, *Panegyricus*, selections
14. Tacitus, *Dialogus de Oratoribus*
   - Tacitus, *Dialogus de Oratoribus*

15. Dio of Prusa, *Kingship Oration*
   - Dio, *Kingship Oration* 4, plus other references as needed.

**MIDTERM ASSIGNED**

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**March 25**

**MIDTERM DUE.** Otherwise class canceled.

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**April 1**

16. Frontinus after Domitian
17. Tacitus, *Agricola*
18. Tacitus, *Germania*

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**April 7 (Tuesday follows a Wednesday schedule)**

19. Tacitus and Pliny
20. Pliny and Martial
21. Martial and Juvenal

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**April 22**

22. Juvenal and the city of Rome
23. Juvenal and empire
24. Favorinus

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**April 29: Class canceled for an overseas conference**
May 6

25. Trajan’s Forum and Column
26. Trajanism overseas
27. Pliny in the provinces

May 13

28. Tacitus, *Histories*
29. Plutarch and Roman power
30. Pending deification: Trajan

Final project

Deadline for Spring 2020 credit, TBA (about three days before grades are due)

*Trajanic relief depicting senators assembled before Domitian’s Temple to Jupiter Capitolinus*