



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the principate - 39716

Last update 25-09-2024

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Alexander Yakobson

Coordinator Email: alexander.yakobson@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment only

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Alexander Yakobson

Course/Module description:

The fall of the roman republic; the rule of the First Roman Emperor and scholarly debates about it

Course/Module aims:

the course will examine fall of the Roman Republic (the assassination of Julius Caesar and its aftermath) the rise to power of Octavian/Augustus till his final victory in the civil wars, the establishment of the principate, the question of the "republican facade" and the different scholarly views on it, some of the central issues of Augustus' domestic and foreign policy, his relations with the different strata of the Roman society, the status of the imperial family and the question of succession. The main source will be the Res Gestae Divi Augusti

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To describe the fall of the Roman Republic and the main events and stages in the political career of Augustus and his rule. To explain the nature and character of Augustus' rule after the establishment of the principate - legal powers, the "settlements", formal vs. informal standing, scholarly debates on the "republican facade".

To describe and analyze Augustus' relations with the different strata of Roman society.

To describe the policy of Augustus as regards the army and the empire.

To analyze the "Res Gestae" as a source: reality and propaganda.

To describe and analyze Augustus policy on the succession, and to explain the relevance of this issue to the debate on the character of the principate as a political system.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading sources, discussion in class, a written assignment, writing a seminar paper or a final paper

Course/Module Content:

The fall of the Republic – assassination of Julius Caesar and the failure of the attempt to restore the Republic; the rise of Augustus to power - till his final victory in the civil wars; the establishment of the principate and the "first settlement"; the "second settlement" - background and content; the debate on "the republican facade"; Augustus and Roman society; moral legislation, religion and culture; Augustus and the Roman army - solving the problem of the "army and the land"; Augustus and the Empire; the imperial family and the question of succession; the last years of Augustus and Tiberius as the heir; the death of Augustus and the transfer of power to Tiberius; Tacitus' assessment.

Required Reading:

H.H. Scullard, From the Gracchi to Nero 1982.

Main Ancient Sources:

Res Gestae Divi Augusti

Tacitus, Annales, Historiae.

Suetonius, 12 Caesars.

Dio, History.

Additional sources and papers: on the "Moodle".

Additional Reading Material:

Cambridge Ancient History (Second Edition), Vol. 10: The Augustan Empire, 1996

Grading Scheme:

Home Exam % 80

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 10 %

Additional information: