



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

AUGUSTUS THE FIRST EMPEROR - 39940

Last update 14-09-2020

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: Alexander Yakobson

Coordinator Email: yakobsona@mscc.huji.ac.il

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday
16.30 - 17.30*

Teaching Staff:

Prof Alexander Yakobson

Course/Module description:

The reign of the First Roman Emperor and scholarly debates about it

Course/Module aims:

The course will examine the rise to power of Octavian/Augustus til 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 and of his relations with the different strata of 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 main events and stages in the political career of Augustus.

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(%):

85%

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

Course/Module Content:

The rise of Augustus to power - til his final victory in the civil wars; the establishment of the principate and the "first settlement"; the "second settlement" - background and content; the debate over "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

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 80 %

Assignments 10 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: