

**The Roman World in Late Antiquity**  
**Professor Sarolta A. Takács**  
Email: sarolta.takacs@rutgers.edu

**History 510:307 HYBRID**  
**Summer 2017**

Online Platform: Sakai

Course Synopsis

Development of the Roman state and society from the late third through early seventh centuries. The transformation of the late classical world, and the origins of Byzantium and the medieval West.

Books

Stephen Mitchell, *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, 2nd Edition (Wiley Blackwell, ISBN 978-1-1183-1242-1)

Learning Goals

After the successful completion of this course, you will have:

- an understanding of the Roman empire's political transformation from a pagan to a Christian empire;
- an understanding of the function as well as failure of cultural assimilation;
- an understanding of how the economy functions as an agent of change;
- an understanding how politics, society, and culture relate and are interconnected to each other;
- an awareness of how institutions, individuals, and ideas are interconnected;
- an awareness of socio-political and cultural transformations and their impact on the development of Western society.

Grading

The components of the Course Grade are as follows:

4 Exams (10% each) = 40%  
2 Reports (10% each) = 20%  
Research Paper = 40%

Your grade will be calculated along the following scale:

100%-90% = A	74% - 70% = C	
89% - 85% = B+	69% - 65% = D	
84% - 80% = B	64% and below = F	I will not negotiate grades.
79% - 75% = C+		

**This course syllabus may change.**

+++++

**Week 1: May 30 – June 4 ONLINE ONLY**

Online Unit 1: Rome's First Citizen: Augustus and his Achievements (*Res Gestae*)

Readings: Selection from Vergil's Aeneid (Books 1 and 6) and Augustus' *Res Gestae*; start reading Mitchell, History, 15-45

Online Unit 2: The Amphitheater

Readings: Selections from Martial and Juvenal

Online Unit 3: The "Good" Emperors

Readings: Pliny, *Panegyric* and Selections from Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Online Unit 4: Hollywood's Versions of Rome's Glory Days

Readings: *Historia Augusta*, *Life of Commodus*

**Week 2: June 5 – 11**

Online Unit 5: Septimius Severus and His Successors

Readings: Mitchell, History, 1-11

Online Unit 6: A “New” Religion: Christianity

Readings: Historical Trends and Christological Issues (Sakai) and The Martyrdom of Perpetua (Sakai)

Online Unit 7: A New Era: Diocletian (Dominate)

Readings: Mitchell, History, 51-66

In Class: Workshop

How to Work with Primary Sources (Literature)?

In Class: How to Work with Primary Sources (Material evidence)?

Exam 1 (Essay)

**Week 3: June 12 -18**

Online Unit 8: Constantine I and His Vision(s)

Readings: Mitchell, History, 66-78

Online Unit 9: Online: The Age of Migrations

Readings: Mitchell, History, 206-223, 230-237

Online Unit 10: Online: Julian the Apostate

Readings: Mitchell, History, 78-84

In Class: *Paideia* (Education) and the Church

Readings: Mitchell, History, 193-201

In Class: Christianity, Politics, and the “Barbarian” Threat

Readings: Sakai

Report 1

**Week 4: June 19 - 25**

Online Unit 11: Theodosius I and the Christian Roman Empire

Readings: Mitchell, History, 84-102, 242-271, 277-319

Online Unit 12: Justinian I and Theodora

Readings: Mitchell, History, 130-158, 165-193; Selections from Procopius' *Secret History*

Online Unit 13: Roman Law and its Codification

Readings: Sakai

In Class: Society and Economy of the Late Roman Empire

Readings: Mitchell, History, 325-351, 355-401

Report 2

In Class: Women in Late Antiquity

Readings: Sakai

Exam 2 (Essay)

**Week 5: June 26 – July 2**

Online Unit 14: Heraclius

Readings: Mitchell, History, 425-438, 441-463

Online Unit 15: Arabs and Slavs

Readings: Sakai

Online Unit 16: Islam

Readings: Sakai

In Class: A World Transformed

Readings: Sakai

In Class: Houses of Knowledge

Exam 3 (Essay)

**Week 6: July 3 - 7**

Online Unit 17: The Carolingians

Readings: Mitchell, History, 223-240

Online Unit 18: Charlemagne and Rome's Afterlife

Readings: Mitchell, History, 466-492; *Life of Charlemagne*

In Class: Formation of Modern Europe

Readings: Sakai

In Class: Wrap-Up

Exam 4 (Essay)

Research Paper Due, July 7, 2017 (in class)