

**Department:** Modern and Classical Languages (CAMS section)

**Course No:** 102

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Roman Civilization

**Contact:** Sara R. Johnson

**Content Area:** CA1-Arts and Humanities

**Catalog Copy:** CAMS 102. Roman Civilization. Spring. Three credits.

Johnson. A survey of classical Rome, with emphasis on literature, thought, and influence on contemporary culture.

**Course Information:** The goal of the course is to provide students with a broad understanding of ancient Roman culture and civilization, with particular emphasis on Roman cultural values as expressed through Roman literature and art, and on the place of Rome within the ancient Mediterranean world. In addition to gaining an appreciation for Roman civilization as a complex system in its own right, students gain an awareness of the profound influence of Roman civilization on modern culture and society.

b. Weekly reading assignments of between 50 and 200 pages, taken predominantly from ancient sources in translation. Two class hours per week are devoted to lecture; in the third hour, students are divided into discussion sections to discuss the reading for the week (students may be required to hand in brief written responses to the reading). Two multiple choice quizzes, one midterm, and final (midterm and final combine multiple choice and essay questions). One five page paper, requiring deeper analysis of one or more previously assigned readings. Honors students (enrolled in the honors section) write a 10-page research paper.

c. The primary emphasis of the course is on gaining understanding of Roman culture and civilization through the products of that civilization, particularly its literature; authors read include Livy, Plautus, Cicero, Vergil, Suetonius, Pliny and Apuleius. Dominant themes include the formation of Roman identity; the development and expression of Roman moral and cultural values; the changing modes of government, from monarchy to republic to empire; and relations between the Romans and other Mediterranean cultures. Specific topics include Roman politics, religion, social history (citizens, women, slaves), and material culture (art, architecture).

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** CAMS 102 meets the following goals of General Education: (1) Students become articulate through required participation in weekly discussion sections, where they are expected to respond to, analyze and question the readings for the course. (2) Students acquire intellectual breadth and versatility by engaging with authors from a variety of genres (history, epic poetry, drama/comedy, oratory, biography, novel) and by gaining a deeper appreciation for a culture which has had profound influence on the modern world. (3) Students acquire critical judgment through discussion and written analysis of ancient authors in exam

essays and papers; they are expected to be able to develop and support a clear argument and to form their own judgments. (4) Students acquire moral sensitivity by learning about and evaluating the morals and values of Roman culture, which in some cases have deeply influenced our own, but in other cases are quite different from our own!

**CA1 Criteria:** CAMS 102 is primarily directed toward (1) investigations and historical/critical analyses of human experience; the primary goal of the course is to gain a broad but thorough understanding of ancient Roman culture and civilization, including political, social, religious, literary and material dimensions. Students must learn to think both historically (emphasizing not only the historical distance between modern and ancient times, but historical and cultural change over the thousand year course of Roman history) and critically (through analysis and discussion of ancient texts, ideas and institutions). Students also learn something about (2) political theory, through the study of the changing modes of Roman government; (3) the modes of symbolic representation, through the study of symbolic representation in Roman art (e.g. the art of the Augustan period); and (4) appreciation of written art forms, through the study of a variety of Roman literary genres, identified in the answer to question 2.

**Role of Grad Students:** Between two and four graduate assistants will be assigned to lead weekly discussion sections and to assist with grading essays and papers for their assigned sections. Discussion in all sections is coordinated through the assignment of the same discussion questions to all sections. Assistants attend all lectures and meet weekly with the chief instructor to discuss what is to be covered in section. Guidelines for grading are also to be set by the chief instructor, to ensure consistency across sections.