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21H.402 The Making of a Roman Emperor  
Fall 2005

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**21H.402**

**THE MAKING OF A ROMAN EMPEROR**

**TUE 7-10**

Prof. Will Broadhead

## BOOKS and RESOURCES

### Required books (available at the MIT bookstore):

- M.G.L. Cooley (ed.), *The Age of Augustus* (2003).
- W. Eck, *The Age of Augustus* (2003).
- K. Galinsky, *Augustan Culture* (1996).
- Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, transl. C. Edwards (2000).

### Online sources:

- Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).
- Plutarch, *Life of Anthony*, available at Lacus Curtius (see below).

### Further reading on library reserve:

- A.H.M. Jones, *Augustus* (1970).
- F. Millar and C. Segal (eds.), *Caesar Augustus: Seven Aspects* (1984).
- K. Raaflaub and M. Toher (eds.), *Between Republic and Empire: Interpretations of Augustus and his Principate* (1990).
- R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (1939).
- Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome* (1993).
- P. Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus* (1988).

### Essential reference works in the library:

- *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Vol. 10: The Augustan Empire, 43 BC – AD 69 (1996).
- *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1996), S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth (eds.).

### Online resources:

#### JSTOR

[www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

#### Lacus Curtius

[penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home)

Your source for Cassius Dio, Plutarch, and other ancient sources in translation, among other items of interest.

#### The Perseus Digital Library

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

A wealth of information relevant to our subject: Ancient texts and translations, extensive photo archives of an impressive range of sites, and plenty of secondary material.

#### The Stoa Consortium

[www.stoa.org](http://www.stoa.org)

'A Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities', with links to many projects of interest.

## ASSESSMENT

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

20%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:

1. Attendance

Your attendance is required at *all* of our Tuesday meetings.

2. Reading

You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to class a copy of any reading that has been assigned.

3. Active participation

You are expected to arrive at our weekly meeting having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and *actively* to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

### SOURCE RESPONSE PAPER

20%

For Week 3, you will each write a paper of 4 to 5 pages in response to your reading of Velleius Paterculus, Tacitus, or Cassius Dio.

The question:

Having read the accounts of Velleius, Tacitus, and Dio, you will choose one of the three for your response paper, which will seek to characterize your chosen historian's portrayal of Augustus (i.e. in what light has your author chosen to portray Augustus?) and to begin to account for the nature of the portrayal in question.

The aim of the exercise:

To develop your skills in the close reading and analysis of ancient texts and in the putting together of a coherent argument on the basis of that analysis.

Expectations of the paper:

As it is meant to be a close analysis of your chosen text, your paper should at least a) (obviously) demonstrate close familiarity with the text, b) demonstrate your ability to follow academic conventions in the citation of ancient texts, and c) demonstrate an ability to select the passages from your text that are the most appropriate to supporting the argument of your paper.

The source response paper is due **September 27**.

## **GROUP PROJECT: Augustan Rome web-site**

**20%**

In groups of four or five, you will be asked to create an informative web-site about one of the following famous monuments of the Augustan Age: the Forum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the statue of Augustus from Prima Porta, the Altar of Augustan Peace (Ara Pacis), or the Roman Forum.

An example of a good web-site will include, but not be limited to:

- A full description of the monument
- Photos, drawings, plans, reconstructions of the monument
- Any relevant literary, epigraphic, and numismatic evidence
- History of the object itself
- The range of modern interpretations of the monument
- An annotated bibliography
- Links to existing sites of relevance

Each group will also present its web-site to the class (a 10 to 15 minute presentation) in the hope that the web-sites might become a useful resource for the whole class as you each begin to research your final paper topics.

Submission and presentation of web-sites to class: **October 25.**

Web-site competition votes due by November 1.

## **RESEARCH PAPER OF 10-15 PAGES**

**40%**

The paper should be a research paper of 10 to 15 pages on a theme of your choice. Your research paper will be expected to demonstrate the skills developed in the first part of the term (i.e. close analysis of ancient textual and monumental evidence) **as well as** knowledge and understanding of as wide as possible a range of the modern works relevant to your chosen theme (e.g. Galinsky, Zanker, etc.).

To encourage the early research and formulation of ideas, you will each be required to schedule a 20-30 minute meeting with me **before November 29** to discuss an outline of your proposed paper.

The research paper will be due at the start of our final meeting: **Tues., Dec. 13.**

## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

### Week 1 (Sept 13) Introduction

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### Week 2 (Sept 20) Republic to Principate: the 'constitutional' monarchy

Reading:

- Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 1-66.
  - *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (aka *The Achievements of the Deified Augustus*) (= pp. 23-35 in Cooley, *The Age of Augustus* or pp. 134-152 in Eck, *The Age of Augustus*).
  - Eder, 'Augustus and the power of tradition: the Augustan Principate as Binding Link between Republic and Empire', in K. Raaflaub and M. Toher (eds.), *Between Republic and Empire: Interpretations of Augustus and his Principate* (1990) pp. 71-122 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
  - Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 180-202.
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### Week 3 (Sept 27) Historians on Augustus: Livy, Velleius, Tacitus, Dio

Reading:

- Livy, Preface and summaries of Books 131-142 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 54-57).
- Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.88-124 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 58-81).
- Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-15 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 82-94).
- Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, Books 52-53 (approx. 65 pp.).
- Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 280-287.
- Gabba, 'The Historians and Augustus', in F. Millar and C. Segal (eds.), *Caesar Augustus: Seven Aspects* (1984) pp. 61-88 [available on library reserve and on the course website].

→ Source response paper due.

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#### **Week 4 (Oct 4) Imperial biography: Suetonius**

Reading:

- Suetonius, *Deified Augustus and Nero*, pp. 43-97 and 195-227.
- Edwards, introduction to Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, pp. vii-xxx.
- Wallace-Hadrill, 'Civilis Princeps: between citizen and king', *Journal of Roman Studies* 72 (1982) pp. 32-48 [available online at JSTOR].
- Barton, 'The *inventio* of Nero: Suetonius', in J. Elsner and J. Masters (eds.), *Reflections of Nero* (1994) pp. 48-63 [available on the course website].

Viewing of *I, Claudius* excerpts and *Quo Vadis* excerpts.

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#### **Week 5 (Oct 11) NO MEETING - Columbus Day Holiday**

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#### **Week 6 (Oct 18) Poetry and the Princeps: Virgil, Horace, Ovid**

Reading:

- Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 95-179.
  - Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 225-279.
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#### **Week 7 (Oct 25) Augustan Rome: art and architecture**

Reading:

- Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 105-112.
- Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome*, pp. 43-62 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
- Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 228-253 (K1-K63).
- Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 141-224.

→ **Group project web-sites due.**

In-class presentations of group web-sites.

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## **Week 8 (Nov 1) The Myth of Actium: Octavian and Antony**

### Reading:

- Velleius Paterculus, *History of Rome* 2.59-87 (approx. 30 pp.) [available online at Lacus Curtius and on the course website].
  - Plutarch, *Antony* 14-87 (pp. 374-430) [available online at Lacus Curtius or on the course website].
  - Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, Book 50-51.10 (approx. 37 pp.) [available online at Lacus Curtius].
  - Review: Horace, *Epode* 9, *Odes* 1.37; Virgil, *Aeneid* 8.626-731; Propertius 4.6 (= Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, G5, G24, G38, G39).
  - Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 33-77 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
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## **Week 9 (Nov 8) A new Golden Age: Augustan values**

### Reading:

- Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 80-140.
  - Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 101-192 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
  - Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 266-279 (= L20-L28).
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## **Week 10 (Nov 15) Religion: Myth and the Imperial Cult**

### Reading:

- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 192-215 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
  - Beard, North, and Price, *Religions of Rome*, Vol. 1, pp. 167-210 [available on the course website].
  - Cooley, *Age of Augustus*, pp. 258-265.
  - Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 288-330.
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## **Week 11 (Nov 29) The Imperial Family and the Succession**

### Reading:

- Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 113-125.
- Cooley, *The Age of Augustus*, pp. 203-227.
- Review: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-15
- Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, pp. 215-238 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
- Joshel, 'I, *Claudius*: Projection and Imperial Soap Opera', in S. Joshel, M. Malamud, and D. McGuire (eds.), *Imperial Projections: Ancient Rome in Modern Popular Culture* (2001) pp. 119-61 [available on the course website].

Viewing of *I, Claudius* excerpts.

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## **Week 12 (Dec 6) Rival Augustuses: Mussolini and Syme**

### Reading:

- Raaflaub and Toher, 'Editors' preface', in *Between Republic and Empire*, pp. xi-xxi [available on library reserve and on the course website].
  - Scott, 'Mussolini and the Roman Empire', *The Classical Journal*, 27 (1931-2) pp. 645-657 [available on the course website].
  - Aicher, 'Mussolini's Forum and the Myth of Augustan Rome', *The Classical Bulletin*, 76.2 (2000) pp. 117-139 [available on the course website].
  - Syme, *The Roman Revolution*, pp. vii-xi, 1-9, 149-161, 459-475, and 509-524 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
    - NB: Syme to be read with my key to the many passages of Latin in his text.
  - Galsterer, 'A Man, a Book, and a Method: Sir Ronald Syme's Roman Revolution After Fifty Years', in K. Raaflaub and M. Toher (eds.), *Between Republic and Empire* (1990) pp. 1-20 [available on library reserve and on the course website].
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## **Week 13 (Dec 13) Conclusion: Whose emperor?**

### Reading:

- Jenkins, *Re-thinking History* (1991) pp. 6-32 [available on the course website].
- Galinsky, *Augustan Culture*, pp. 3-41 and 376-389.

→ **Research paper due**