

Latin 118b: Roman Historians: Livy & Tacitus

MWTh 12-1 PM

In this course we will read selections from the early, middle and later books of Livy (Titus Livius), and from Tacitus' *Annales* Books 1 and 13-16.

We know little of Livy's actual life, other than that he was born in North Italy in the area of modern Padua, about 59 B.C., and lived until A.D. 17. He apparently settled in Rome about the age of 30, and spent the last 40 years of his life composing his history of Rome, *ab urbe condita*: Rome from its foundation (753 B.C.) to Livy's time. Of the 142 books he wrote covering the period from the beginning (753) until the death of Drusus (brother of Tiberius)(9 B.C.), only 35 survive (Books 1-10 and 21-45 [41 and 43-45 have lacunae]), although we have summaries of most of the ones lost. His work was published in installments during his lifetime and was very popular—so much so “that the emperor Caligula banned his works as well as those of Vergil from the libraries” (M. W. Wilson).

The historian Tacitus (P.? Cornelius Tacitus) (56 A.D. –post 118 A.D.) resumed writing the history of Rome with the accession of Augustus in his *Annales*, which elaborated the Julio-Claudian dynasty from the accession of Tiberius. In an earlier work, the *Histories*, he had covered the years 69-96 A.D., from the year of the four Emperors to the death of Domitian. Tacitus, having lived through this period, is thus is one of our best sources for it. In this course, we will focus on his account of the reign of the emperor Nero in the *Annales*.

The texts below have been ordered for the course; additionally, I will provide selections not included in these texts.

Livy, Book I, ed. Gould & Whitely, Bristol Classical Press, ISBN 0-86292-296-8

Livy, Book XXI, ed. Walsh, Bristol Classical Press, ISBN 0-86292-178-3

Tacitus, *Annales*, ed. Fisher, Oxford Classical Texts ISBN 13: 9780198146339 ISBN 10: 0198146337

There will be a midterm and a 3-hour final exam, plus one 10-15 page paper to be presented in class during the last two weeks of the course, and then submitted in writing.

SCHEDULE

January 17 W First Class: Introduction
 18 Th Livy *Praefatio*
 22 M
 24 W 1.1-2; 1.4-7. Early Rome
 25 Th
 29 M
 31 W

February 1 Th Begin selections from Books 21-22: The War with Hannibal
 5 M
 7 W
 8 Th
 12 M

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14 W 21.7, 8
 15 Th 9, 10-11.2 (Hanno's speech)
 19 M Th 22 *Spring Recess*
 26 M 30 Hannibal's rationale for going through the Alps
 28 W 36-37 The difficulties in crossing the Alps

March 1 Th 39.10-41.17 Scipio's speech to his men
 5 M 43-44 Hannibal's speech to his men
 7 W 62 Strange happenings at Rome
 8 Th
 12 M **Midterm**
 14 W Begin Tacitus *Annales* I.1-10; then begin Book XIII
 15 Th *Ann.* I.1-5 Augustus' reign and death
 19 M
 21 W *Ann.* I.6-8 Tiberius assumes power
 22 Th
 26 M *Ann.* 12.1-2, 5: Claudius marries Agrippina;
 28 W
 29 Th 12.25-26 Claudius adopts Nero;

April 2 M, 4 W *No Class - Passover*
 5 Th 66-69 Agrippina poisons Claudius
 9M
 11W 13.1-3 beginning of Nero's rule
 12Th
 16M 13.14-17 death of Britannicus
 18W
 19Th 14.3-9 Death of Agrippina
 23M
 25W Paper Presentations Begin
 26Th
 30M

May 2W Last Class

Thursday, May 10 Final Exam 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a suitable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.