

AHIS3221: Early Roman Empire: From AD 14 to 235

Callaghan

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Students will study aspects of the rule of the Roman emperors from the Julio-Claudian to the end of the Severan Dynasty. There will be a critical examination of scholarly trends, a focus on thematic questions such as institutional transformation, authority and legitimacy, and Roman identity. Students will examine a variety of evidence for the period in depth: including literary, documentary, numismatic, epigraphic, art historical and monumental.

Requisites

Students cannot enrol in this course if they have previously successfully completed AHIS3220.

Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours

20 units in Ancient History

Callaghan

Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks

Tutorial

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per Week for 11 Weeks starting Week 2

Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Callaghan**
Dr Ryan Strickler
Ryan.Strickler@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation:

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences**
Social Sciences Building
Callaghan
HCISS@newcastle.edu.au
+61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content

- The emergence of the Principate
- Legitimacy and Imperial media: communicating power to the masses
- Institutional change through the development of the Roman Empire
- Restorers and Usurpers: continuity of government in periods of crisis
- The Roman army and the Provinces: a study of literary, epigraphic and numismatic evidence

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**
1. Critically discuss early imperial Rome by isolating the most important sources on the Julio-Claudians, both literary and non-literary.

2. Evaluate the strengths and the limitations of all types of evidence, in particular because of the biased and fragmentary nature of ancient sources.

3. Analyse the culture of Early Imperial Rome, seeing its differences and similarities to other cultural and political models, both ancient and modern.

4. Construct arguments that evince criticisms succinctly and accurately.

Course Materials **Required Text:**
There are no required purchases or standard textbooks for this course. All course materials will be provided digitally on Canvas through the Course Readings link. Students may wish to have their own physical copy of Suetonius's *Lives of the 12 Caesars* and Tacitus's *Annals* and *Histories* (frequently included together with the *Germania*). These are readily available in paperback through Oxford University Press and Penguin publishing, any version will do. Cassius Dio will also be of service. All of these sources are also available for free in the public domain and links will be provided.

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 5 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Tutorial forums (10%)	From Week 2: Initial Post: Thursdays at 11:59 PM 2 Student Responses: Saturdays at 11:59 PM	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Emperors Podcast (30%)	Friday, two weeks after the lecture that features the chosen emperor.	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Essay (30%)	Friday 11:59 PM, Week 13	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Tutorial Paper (20%)	Friday 11:59 PM, 2 Weeks after the chosen tutorial topic.	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
5	Short Presentation (10%)	On the tutorial session pertaining to the chosen topic.	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 – Tutorial Forums (10%)

Assessment Type	Participation
Purpose	To facilitate engagement with course material and discussion among students.
Description	Students must post responses to tutorial discussion after each tutorial session. These responses are to be based on at least two of the posted tutorial questions, given in each week's module. Students may opt instead, if they prefer, to post an observation that came up during in class discussion.
	There is one exception in this course. Week 2 (Tutorial 1), students will take an unmarked quiz, and will be awarded full marks for a good faith, completed attempt. Failure to complete the quiz will result in a zero mark for all exercises, regardless of level of participation. Students will be marked on the 10 remaining discussions. The lowest three marks will be dropped.
Weighting	10%
Length	125 words per post.
Due Date	From Week 2: Initial Post: Thursdays at 11:59 PM 2 Student Responses: Saturdays at 11:59 PM
Submission Method	Canvas Forums
Assessment Criteria	Rubric will be posted in Canvas by Week 3.
Feedback Provided	Feedback provided via Canvas.

Assessment 2 - Emperors Podcast (30%)

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Purpose	This task builds skills in research communication, professional practice, and popular engagement.
Description	You will produce a 20 minute podcast on an emperor of their choice, OR on "the year of four emperors", OR "the year of five emperors". Podcasts should be well researched and academically sound, while geared towards a popular audience unfamiliar with the topic. You are encouraged to have fun and be as creative as you would like, while remaining relevant to the topic. You will submit a bibliography to accompany your podcast (a separate link will be provided in the Assessments Tab)
Weighting	30%
Length	20 minutes
Due Date	Friday, two weeks after the lecture that features the chosen emperor.
Submission Method	Media file or video link posted to Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas

Feedback Provided Feedback provided via Canvas

Assessment 3 - Essay (30%)

Assessment Type Essay

Purpose This assessment is to demonstrate the skills you have acquired and/or developed throughout the course in the following areas: (a) analysing primary sources in the form of material culture (i.e. archaeological evidence) and/or written sources (a combination of both is best at this level); (b) presenting a persuasive, logical argument based on effective choice of both ancient and modern evidence; (c) cohesiveness, logical structure; (d) highly developed and correct referencing (Chicago Style Footnotes).

Description Write a formal research essay on topic chosen from the list (provided in Week 3).

Weighting This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.

Length 2000 Words

Due Date Friday 11:59 Week 13

Submission Method TurnItIn via Canvas

Assessment Criteria Rubric available on Canvas

Feedback Provided Feedback provided via Canvas

Assessment 4 - Tutorial Paper (20%)

Assessment Type Written Assignment

Purpose This assessment ensures you are developing knowledge of individual topics in the study of Roman Imperial History. It is designed to augment skills in examining and using ancient source material in conjunction with scholarship to develop critical analysis. **Note: This assessment is tied to assessment 5. Tutorial papers and presentations should be on the same topic.**

Description In 1500 words analyse a chosen tutorial topic. This may be done using tutorial questions as a prompt, or based on the student's relevant direction.

Weighting This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.

Length 1500 Words

Due Date Friday 11:59 PM, 2 Weeks after the chosen tutorial topic.

Submission Method TurnItIn via Canvas

Assessment Criteria Rubric available on Canvas

Feedback Provided Feedback provided via Canvas.

Assessment 5 - Short Presentation (10%)

Assessment Type Presentation

Purpose Develop oral presentations skills and the ability to convey information in a classroom setting.

Description In 5 minutes, provide an overview of the chosen tutorial topic. This can include a summary analysis of the reading, addressing a tutorial question, or another relevant approach at the student's discretion. Students must make use of relevant primary and modern scholarly sources. **Note: This assessment is tied to assessment 4. Tutorial presentations and papers should be on the same topic.**

Weighting This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.

Length 5 minutes

Due Date On the tutorial session pertaining to the chosen topic.

Submission Method Delivered orally in class. Students must submit a power point or other visual aid to Canvas.

Assessment Criteria Rubric available on Canvas

Feedback Provided Feedback provided via Canvas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.

75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:
Canvas announcements and personal email to your UON email address. Students must monitor their university email accounts and Canvas announcements. All important information will be communicated via this medium including course updates. In the event that a student submission is corrupted or unreadable, the student will be contacted through these media. Failure to monitor communications could result in a failing mark on an unreadable assessment.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

As a result of student feedback, the following changes have been made to this offering of the course:

- Podcast length shortened from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Forum posting introduced to reward participation and engagement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

© 2023 The University of Newcastle, Australia