

ROMAN HISTORY Ph.D. READING LIST

I. Ancient sources. Read the following in translation:

Polybius	1, 6	Martial	<i>liber de Spectaculis</i> ,
Sallust	<i>Bellum Catilinae</i> ,		any two books of <i>Epig.</i>
	<i>Bellum Iugurthinum</i>	Tacitus	<i>Annales</i> 1, 13-16;
M. Cicero	<i>In Catilinam</i> 1-4		<i>Historiae</i> 1-2
	<i>Pro Milone</i>	Suetonius	<i>Caes., Aug., Tib., Claud.,</i>
	<i>Philippicae</i> 1-2		<i>Nero</i>
Q. Cicero	<i>Commentariolum Petitionis</i>	Plutarch	<i>Romulus, Coriolanus,</i>
Caesar	<i>Bellum Civile</i>		<i>Gracchi, Marius,</i>
[Caesar]	<i>Bellum Alexandrinum</i>		<i>Antonius</i>
Livy	1-5, 39.1-19	Juvenal	<i>Saturae</i> 1-8, 10
Augustus	<i>Res Gestae</i>	Apuleius	<i>Apology</i>
Velleius	2.94-131	Dio Cassius	51-55
Paterculus		Lucian	<i>On Salaried Posts</i>
Valerius	praef.; books 2 and 9		<i>Alexander the False Prophet</i>
Maximus		Tertullian	<i>De Spectaculis</i>
Philo	<i>Embassy to Gaius</i>	Ammianus	15-19
Josephus	<i>Life</i>	Marcellinus	

The following should be read in the original, but you are not responsible for producing a translation until the Latin Literature Exam (these are included in the Latin Literature reading list, s.v.):

Sal. <i>Cat.</i>	Val. Max. II.1.1–6.17
Cic. <i>Phil.</i> II	Tac. <i>Ann.</i> I, XV.47–XVI.34
Q. Cic. <i>Comm. Pet.</i>	Suet. <i>Claud.</i>
Livy 1, 6	Juv. 1-8, 10
Aug. <i>R. G.</i>	Mart. <i>Spect.</i> ; <i>Epigr.</i> I
Vell. II.94–131	

II. Modern Scholarship

It is not essential to read every word of each of the following books, though I recommend all of Alföldi, Brunt, and Scullard if you've never had a proper survey of the history of the central period of Roman history. Especially in the more specialized studies of particular periods or topics, I expect you to get an *overview* of these debates and approaches, not to know everything about them in great detail. That is, what is/are the issue/issues that these scholars are debating about, and why? What kinds of evidence do they have at hand? What kinds of intellectual or theoretical frameworks do they apply to the problems they investigate, and to what end?

Overviews:

Alföldi, Geza. *The Social History of Rome* (1985, or reprinted 1988) (or if you prefer, read the original German: *Römische Sozialgeschichte*, 1975). A good overview of the shape of Roman social history as a discipline, and the kinds of questions social historians ask.

Brunt, P. A. 1971. *Social Conflicts in the Roman Republic* (or, read the later remake of this project, the long chapter in Brunt's *The fall of the Roman Republic and related essays*, 1988) A groundbreaking analysis of the interrelation of the following aspects of Roman society: agrarian economics, slaveholding, warfare, the demographics of the army, elite values, and the rise of dominant warlords in the late republic. (This account, widely accepted for a generation, is now being challenged: see Rosenstein and Scheidel below.)

Garnsey, Peter, and Richard Saller. 1987. *The Roman Empire : economy, society, and culture*. A series of essays offering overviews of particular problems in (as the title suggests) the economy, society, and culture of the early empire. Well worth looking at, especially if you are interested in one of the particular topics on which they write.

Scullard, H. H. *From the Gracchi to Nero*. 3rd edn, 1970. This book provides a good overview of What Happened between about B.C. 140 and A.D. 70, and the notes in the 3rd edition do an excellent job of indicating the sources for each period and question. But beware: Scullard's historical interpretations are extremely old-fashioned (in fact, completely obsolete in many respects), and one should read Brunt and Alföldi for more modern framings and analyses of key questions.

Specific periods:

Brown, Peter. 1978. *The Making of Late Antiquity*. A fundamental (and blessedly brief) analysis of the end of the classical world and its metamorphosis into something else.

Cornell, T. J. 1995. *The beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the bronze age to the Punic Wars, c. 1000-263 B.C.* Read at least a few chapters, especially at the beginning of the book, to get a sense of the problems historians face, and the nature of the evidence they have, in dealing with early Rome.

Specific topics or approaches:

Bradley, Keith R. look at EITHER *Slaves and Masters in the Roman Empire: a study in Social Control* (1987) OR *Slavery and society at Rome* (1994). Fundamental surveys of slavery as a social, economic, and ideological institution in the Roman world. Both are short books, and highly readable.

Flower, Harriet. 1996. *Ancestor Masks and Aristocratic Power in Roman Culture*. Already something of a classic, this book exemplifies the emerging "cultural"

approach to Roman history: the investigation of cultural systems, i.e. social practices and beliefs/values/ideologies as they are interlinked and as they mutually affect one another.

Gardner, J. F. 1986. *Women in Roman Law and Society*. The title is perfectly descriptive: this is an overview of the actualities of women's existence in Rome, and also of the corpus of law expressly dealing with women. This book, besides being interesting and useful, exemplifies the products of the "women's history" movement of the 1970s and 1980s, which in turn emerged from the feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. In recent years, this movement has broadened and moved on to investigate larger issues of gender and sexuality in the ancient world (see on Williams below).

Hopkins, Keith. 1983. *Death and Renewal*. Look especially at the middle two chapters, a groundbreaking and extremely influential application of statistical and demographic methods to certain historical problems.

Kraus, C. S., and A. Woodman. 1997. *Latin Historians*. A brief overview of recent approaches to Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus as historical sources and literary artists, with a few other prose historians also getting brief mention.

Millar, Fergus. 1998. *The Crowd in Rome in the Late Republic*. Millar's latest book has stirred up a huge debate about the degree to which the Republican system, especially in the late republic, was "democratic." In so doing, he has revived the whole field of Roman "constitutional history," which had almost completely withered away for lack of new ideas. See also Mouritsen below.

Mouritsen, Henrik. 2001. *Plebs and politics in the late Roman republic*. A response, and a corrective, to Millar's work on Roman "democracy."

Rosenstein, Nathan. 2004. *Rome at War: Farms, Families, and Death in the Middle Republic*. A cogent critique of the consensus represented by Brunt's work, and a thorough rethinking of the interrelationships among small freeholding, villa agriculture, military service, and the decline of the republic. See also Scheidel.

Scheidel, Walter. 2005. "Human Mobility in Roman Italy II: The Slave Population." *JRS* 95 (2005) 64-79. A different approach from Rosenstein's but with conclusions tending in the same general direction.

Syme, Ronald. 1939. *The Roman Revolution*. Look at Chs. 1-3, 11, 25-33. A great classic, this book with its prosopographical approach to Roman elite politics shaped scholarship in Roman history for two generations. While the field has assimilated the fruits of this approach and largely moved on to other questions and methods, it is still important to sample Syme's work. See also Wallace-Hadrill below.

- Wallace-Hadrill, A. 1997. "Mutatio morum: the idea of a cultural revolution." In T. Habinek and A. Schiesaro, eds., *The Roman Cultural Revolution*. Yes, this collection is explicitly in response to Syme's book, and seeks to rethink and reassess some of Syme's central concerns by way of methods and approaches to Roman history that have emerged since 1939, and especially in light of recent cultural-historical approaches (see on Flower above). Wallace-Hadrill's piece is a stimulating part of this effort. (You might also read the editors' "Introduction" to the whole collection, for their discussion of Syme and his reception over the years.)
- Williams, Craig A. 1999. *Roman homosexuality: ideologies of masculinity in classical antiquity*. A thorough survey and discussion of Roman practices and ideologies of sex, sexuality, and gender. This book exemplifies a slew of recent studies in ancient ideologies of gender, and especially of manhood. Since the mid-1990s the Roman "man"—the *vir* and his *virtus*—has been completely rediscovered and reinvented in light of the (re)discovery of the Roman woman over the past 20 years (see on Gardner above).
- Woolf, Greg. 1998. *Becoming Roman: the origins of provincial civilization in Gaul*. How and why "Romanization" occurred in areas of the Roman world outside of Latium proper, and indeed what "Romanization" itself means, is a hot topic in Roman history just now. This book is just one recent intervention in the debate.
- ALSO: An emerging subfield of ancient history of the past decade is the "history of emotions," which turn out to be historically and culturally determined. To get a sense of how one might do the history of a (Roman) emotion, look at any one of the following three volumes:
- (1) S. Braund and D. Gill, eds., 1997. *The passions in Roman Thought and literature*. Cambridge.
 - (2) W. V. Harris. 2001. *Restraining rage: the ideology of anger control in classical antiquity*. Harvard.
 - (3) R. A. Kaster. 2005. *Emotion, Restraint, and Community in Ancient Rome*. Oxford.