REL 344 (Online Temp Syllabus) – History of Ancient Roman Civilization
This is a temporary, in class version, placeholder for the Fall ‘19 online syllabus – if you enroll in the class I will send you an updated syllabus in August.

“The study of history is beneficial and profitable for the following reasons. You behold the lessons of every historical event as clearly as if they were displayed on a stone monument. From these you may choose for yourself and for your own community what to imitate. From these you may decide what to avoid as shameful in cause or shameful in result….No state was ever greater than Rome, none was more pious or richer in fine examples; there has been no state where greed and luxury entered so late in its development, or where thrift and a modest standard of living were given such great respect.” Livy (59 BCE – 17 CE), The History of Rome 1.preface.10-11.

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Textbook:
I am in the process of deciding on books. Oxford lets us customize a textbook (i.e. take chapters out) in order to make the e-book version much cheaper. This is a long process that I am trying out for the first time… So bear with me…
However, it should be either ISBN:9780199730575 (Boatwright) or ISBN:9780190849603 (Mathisen) depending on final pricing…

Assignments:
• Assignments are being determined.
• I am considering:
  o having you take more online, shorter tests, like reading tests, with ‘due dates windows’ that span a few days since you are better able to go your own speed then online…
  o There will be at least one, short 2 page paper – analyzing a primary source. I will probably have a few, and then you choose the one that interests you the most.
  o There will have to be some sort of discussion board I suppose – maybe in placed of the reading tests…
  o There will be a few short responses on integral elements of the field of history in general, like what is a primary/secondary/tertiary sources, historiography, etc…
  o I am still considering a longer, final research paper…

Grades: I do not round up and no extra credit is available.
A – (93 – 100) C+ – (77 – 79.9)
A- – (90 – 92.9) C – (73 – 76.9)
B+ – (87 – 89.9) C- – (70 – 72.9)
B – (83 – 86.9) D – (60 – 69.9)
B- – (80 – 82.9) F – Below 60

Examples of weekly readings (only if we use the Boatwright authored textbook, the second ISBN #):
Week 1: Introduction (first class) and Roman History, 1-10.
Week 2: Phoenicians, Greeks, and Etruscans, 11-26; Early Rome to 500 BCE, 27-38; Early Roman Society, Religion, Values, 39-54.
Week 3: Evolution of Roman Republic Constitution, 55-73; Roman Conquest of Italy, 74-87.
Week 4: First Punic War, Northern Italy, and Pirates 88-99; Second Punic War, 100-109; Roman Imperialism East and West, 110-126.
Week 5: Transformation of Roman Life, 127-140; The Great Cultural Synthesis, 141-151.
Week 6: The Gracchi and Struggle Over Reforms, 152-162; The Breakdown and Career of Marius, 163-173.
Week 7: The Civil War and Sulla’s Reaction, 174-181; Failure of Sulla’s Oligarchy, 182-197.
Week 8: Caesar Wins then Loses, 198-214; The Last Years of the Republic, 215-228.
Week 9: Society, Culture, and Economic of the Late Republic, 229-247; The Principate Takes Shape (Early Roman Empire), 248-260.
Week 10: Imperial Stabilization Under Augustus, 261-276; The Impact of Augustus, 277-291.
Week 11: All of the Julio-Claudians, 292-314; Crisis and Recovery Under the Flavians, 315-324.
Week 12: Second Century – Five “Good” Emperors, 325-340; Recap of Imperial Culture and Society in the First and Second Centuries, 341-364.
Week 15: The Germans are Coming!, 471-485; Justin, Justinian, and Empire, 486-500.
This schedule will change…and eventually it will be accompanied by a calendar…