

# ANCH 111

## Introduction to Roman History: Punic Wars to the Death of Caesar

Prerequisite: Nil

### Unit Description

Introduction to Roman History (ANCH 111) is a one-semester unit offered in second semester. It has been designed as an introduction to some of the key areas of Roman history and to the skills required for historical study at university level. It emphasises the critical examination of ancient written, artistic, and archaeological evidence within the context of a survey of Roman history. You do not need any prior knowledge to complete this unit.

### Unit Objective

The unit aims to assist students not only to reach an understanding of the origins of Western society and why it evolved as it did, but also to acquire the following important skills:

- ◆ critical analysis;
- ◆ clear oral and written communication (including the construction of a logical argument and the selection and use of evidence);
- ◆ independent research (including the identification of appropriate evidence and the extraction of relevant information from both written and visual material).

On completion of this unit, students will have:

- ◆ explored the significant issues in Roman Republican history down to 44 BC;
- ◆ enhanced their understanding of human behaviour in an historically different context from their own;
- ◆ enhanced their faculties of critical analysis;
- ◆ enhanced their ability to produce clear written communication, including the construction of a logical argument and the selection and use of evidence;
- ◆ practiced basic research skills;
- ◆ practiced oral argument and communication.

## Teaching and Learning Approach

Formal student contact will consist of one 4-hour workshop per week. This workshop combines components of lecture, tutorial and in-class activities to assist learning and retention of knowledge. A unit's factual content and theoretical approach are presented in lecture section of the workshop through both verbal and written information and visual examples such as slides and video material. Tutorials and group work activities are held to: reinforce information and ideas; provide opportunity for discussion and allow presentation of individual ideas and utilisation of oral presentation skills. Workshops comprise: information delivered by the lecturer; guided detailed discussion amongst the whole group; and individual students' presentation of research papers. You need to read prescribed readings and the ANCH 111 resource booklet and Study Guide Booklet to help facilitate your preparation for participation in tutorials.

## Content

Week	Topic	Content
1	The Roman Household	The construction of Pompeian households and houses and how these structures relate to larger community and societal structures.
2	Roman Religion	The components of Roman religion including: gods, forms of worship, and divining the future as well as the relationship of these components to political elements in Roman society.
3	Roman Women	The role of Roman women (particularly elite) in the Roman family and society and the sorts of attributes and achievements valued in women at this time.
4	Slavery	Identification of the sources for knowledge of slavery in ancient Rome and exploration of slaves' role in the economy and their treatment.
5	The Roman Art of Government	The relative success of the constitution, tribunate, consuls and senate in terms of the stability and decay of Rome.
6	The Gracchi	The political and social climate in 133 BC and the varying nature and motivation of the Gracchi's reform.
7	Gaius Marius	Gaius Marius' use of and engagement with the military and the effect on Rome.

<b>8</b>	Lucius Cornelius Sulla	The impact of Sulla on Rome's political formation and public life.
<b>9</b>	The Catilinarian Conspiracy	The nature of Catiline's attack on the republic and the role of other prominent men.
<b>10</b>	Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus	Background and origin of the Civil War: Pompey and Caesar.
<b>11</b>	Gaius Julius Caesar	Critical evaluation of Caesar's text <i>Civil Wars</i> .
<b>12</b>	Caesar's shadow	Cicero's guidance of the Republic in 44BC and the reasons for his failure.
<b>13</b>	<b>Synthesis of Unit</b>	Drawing together the themes of the unit and revision of all topics. Exam preparation.

## Assessment

Item	Focus	% Value
Assignment #1 – written essay	Individual	30
Assignment #2- written essay	Individual	30
Final examination	Individual	40
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### Assignment 1 (30%)

The assessment is designed to evaluate your understanding of key facets of the course and demonstrate their use of ancient sources. Students must submit a 1500-word tutorial paper in essay format that responds to one of the questions from tutorial topics weeks 1-6. Submit each tutorial paper at the end of each tutorial. Ensure that you have selected your tutorial topics by the end of your first tutorial. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy with a plagiarism declaration form attached. Please retain a copy of the assignment for your records.

1. What was the make up of the Roman household? Discuss this with reference to both the ancient literary evidence and Pompeian houses.
2. Were the Romans a superstitious people, or was their religion a sophisticated one?
3. The *laudatio Turiae* is a beautiful monument set up by a husband for his deceased wife. What does the *laudatio Turiae* reveal about the roles elite women could play in Republican Rome? Which of his wife's virtues did the *laudator* choose to praise? Why? Is the inscription reliable evidence for the attitudes of the Romans towards their women?
4. Polybius (*Histories* Book 6) claims that it was the 'mixed constitution' that permitted Rome to achieve what was unparalleled in human history - the domination of the whole world. Do you agree? What other characteristics helped the Roman people in that achievement?
5. Was Tiberius Gracchus a 'defender of the common man'?
6. Do Marius' actions in 100 BC suggest that, despite his immense *gloria* and *auctoritas*, he realised that without warfare he had no role to play in the state?

### Assignment 2 (30%)

Students must submit a 1500-word tutorial paper in essay format that responds to one of the questions from tutorial topics weeks 7-11 (see below). Submit each tutorial paper at the end of each tutorial. Ensure that you have selected your tutorial topics by the end of

your first tutorial. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy with a plagiarism declaration form attached. Please retain a copy of the assignment for your records.

7. To what extent can we agree with the view that Sulla was one of Rome's great benefactors?
8. Is Sallust's portrayal of Catiline justified?
9. Did the primary responsibility for the civil war lie with Pompey, the optimates, or with Caesar?
10. How does Caesar portray himself in his *Civil Wars*? (Read esp. I.7-11, I.32-36, I.64, & III.85-105). How does he portray his opponents? Is his *Civil Wars* truthful? Is it history?
11. On December 20<sup>th</sup> 44 BC Cicero undertook to guide the flagging Republic. What problems was the Republic facing? How sound was Cicero's advice? Did he have any alternative?

### **Examination (40%)**

There will be one written examination paper, of two hours' duration, held at the end of the semester during the examination period. In the examination, you will be required to write three essays. There will be a question on every tutorial topic. You may write essays on the same topics for which you have written your assignments. Your assignments, in fact, provide you with some of the topics which you need to study for the examination. No material (unit booklets, textbooks or translations) may be taken into the examination. You are not expected to give footnotes or bibliography in your answers to the examination questions.

## Prescribed Texts

Students need to have constant access to most of the prescribed books. It is important to be able to refer to a good standard history of Rome at all times. The ancient sources are crucial for your writing of essays, as you must be able to refer to the ancient sources (sometimes described as primary sources) in your written work.

### *Ancient Sources*

Plutarch, Rex Warner trans., *Fall of the Roman Republic*, Penguin, Revised edn, 1972.

ANCH 111 UNE Resource Booklet (2): extracts of ancient sources in translation not easily accessible or available in the prescribed texts, and some modern critiques.

### *Anthologies and Reference Works*

Lewis, N., & Reinhold, M., *Roman Civilization* vol. I. *The Republic and the Augustan Age*, University of Columbia Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. 1990.

Scullard, H.H. *From the Gracchi to Nero*, Methuen University Paperback, 5<sup>th</sup> edn, 1982.

ANCH 111 UNE Study Notes Booklet (3): Factual Information for guidance prior to lectures.

Because of our emphasis on the use of evidence in this unit, we have prescribed a number of important historical sources in translation, and we expect students to make constant reference in their written work to the evidence in these sources.

