

The theme for this year's version of COM 139 is Shakespeare's Rome. Our focus will be on the representations and discussions of Roman social and political institutions and values in texts by Plutarch, Livy, and Machiavelli and in Shakespeare's "The Rape of Lucrece," *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Coriolanus*. We'll pay particular attention to how all these works treat such topics as class conflict, gender roles and gender hierarchy, and political and personal violence. We'll also try to understand the ways in which these texts, especially those by Shakespeare, both call into question and reaffirm institutions and values of their own time through accounts and representations of the past.

The following books are available (or supposed to be available) in paperback at the campus bookstore; we'll use them in the order listed. **Please be sure to use these editions** and translations, even if you have others. The specific Plutarch readings are found only in the Signet Shakespeares, and the translations of Livy and Machiavelli have been chosen for their accuracy, readability, introductions, and notes.

Livy, *The Rise of Rome*: Books 1-5, tr. T.J. Luce (Oxford U. P.)

Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, tr. Bondanella and Bondanella (Oxford U. P.)

Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, ed. Rosen and Rosen (Signet Books, newly revised ed.)

_____, *Coriolanus*, ed. R. Brower (Signet Books, newly revised ed.)

_____, *Antony and Cleopatra*, ed. B. Everett (Signet Books, newly revised ed.)

_____, *The Complete Sonnets and Poems*, ed. C. Burrow (Oxford U.P.)

Please read each assignment carefully and be prepared to contribute thoughtfully and productively to class discussions. Course requirements include two short papers (4-5 pages) and a longer, comparative paper in place of a final exam (8-10 pages). The final grade will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions (about 20%), the short papers (about 20% each), and the longer, final paper (about 40%).

Schedule of Assignments

March 30: introductory matters

April 1: Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, Book I

April 6: Livy, Book II. 1-6, 9-13, 23-40, 54-61; Book III. 9-37, 43-48, 52-58

April 8: Livy, Book IV. 1-6, 19-20; Book V

April 13: Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, “Letter of Greeting to Buondelmenti and Rucellai”; Book I. Prefaces, Chapters 1-19, 25-27, 32-34, 37-48.

April 15: Machiavelli, Book II. Preface, Chapters 1-3, 9-10, 13, 19-23, 27-30; Book III. Chapters 1, 3, 9, 16, 19-26, 40-43, 49. **FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE**

April 20, 22: “The Rape of Lucrece” (with Burrow’s “Introduction” to the poem, pp. 40-73)

April 27: Plutarch, selections from *Life of Marcus Antonius* (in *Antony and Cleopatra*, pp. 157-180) and *Life of Julius Caesar* and *Life of Marcus Brutus* (in *Julius Caesar*, pp. 108-151)

April 29, May 4, May 6: Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*. **SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE MAY 6**

May 11, 13, 18, 20: Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra*

May 25, 27, June 1, 3: Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* (with selections from Plutarch’s *Life of Coriolanus*, pp. 158-95). **FINAL PAPER DUE ON MAY 27 OR JUNE 1**