

Caesar (Latin 233: Roman Historians)

An introduction to the life and writings of Gaius Julius Caesar (100–44 BC). In addition to reading selections from his account of the Roman civil war in which he was a main protagonist and the victor, we will read the principle ancient sources on his life: the biographies by Plutarch (ca. AD 50–ca. 120) and Suetonius (b. ca. AD 70), and the account of the whole period by Appian of Alexandria (ca. AD 95–ca. 170).

Goals

Know:

- course of Roman history ca. 70–44 BC (key figures, dates, stories, ideas)
- Latin vocab. and grammar sufficient to read Caesar comfortably

Understand:

- key values in Roman politics (*virtus, dignitas*, etc.), as revealed in the civil war/fall of Repub.
- Caesar's and Pompey's characters
- causes of the fall of the Republic and Caesar's assassination

Be able to:

- translate Caesar at sight (with appropriate assistance), and prepared
- read ancient sources critically (Suetonius, Appian, Plutarch, Caesar himself)
- research and write about special topics in Roman history

Books and Websites

Appian. *The Civil Wars*, trans. John Carter (Penguin, 1996). 978-0-14-044509-1

Caesar. *The Civil War*, trans. John Carter (Oxford University Press, 1999). 978-0-19-954062

Goldsworthy, Adrian. *Caesar's Civil War, 49-44 BC* (Essential Histories series) (Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2002). 978-1-84176-392-7

Ruebel, James. *Caesar and the Crisis of the Roman Aristocracy: A Civil War Reader* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1994) 978-0-8061-3963-0

Suetonius. *Lives of the Caesars*, trans. Catherine Edwards (Oxford World Classics, 2000). 978-0-19-953756-3

Non-core vocabulary lists for Ruebel's selections are linked on Moodle, as are other useful websites

Grading breakdown:

- preparation and participation (20%)
- worksheets and short quizzes (20%)
- 2 tests and final exam (30%)
- Close reading paper (15%)
- Research project (15%)

Assignment Schedule

8/29	Introduction
8/31	Read Goldsworthy pp. 8–13 and do worksheet. Begin reviewing core vocabulary. Focus on semantic groups: “Pronouns and Interrogatives” and “Conjunctions/Adverbs”
9/2	Read Hirtius, <i>De Bellō Gallicō</i> 8.51–52 (Ruebel pp. 38–40). Review declensions and conjugations, continue vocab review.
9/5	quiz on DCC Core Latin Vocabulary (English to Latin and Latin to English, extra credit for full dictionary form. Focus on semantic groups: “Pronouns and Interrogatives” and “Conjunctions/Adverbs”
9/7	Read Hirtius, <i>De Bellō Gallicō</i> 8.53–55 (Ruebel pp. 41–43)
9/9	Read Goldsworthy pp. 14–53 and do worksheet.
9/12	Caesar, <i>BC</i> 1.1–2 (Ruebel pp. 44–47)
9/14	Caesar, <i>BC</i> 1.3–4 (Ruebel pp. 47–49)
9/16	Read Goldsworthy pp. 54–90 and do worksheet.
9/19	review
9/21	Test 1 on Latin so far, Goldsworthy, and core vocabulary.
9/23	Vocab review
9/26	Caesar, <i>BC</i> 1.5, with worksheet
9/28	Caesar, <i>BC</i> 1.6, with worksheet
9/30	Donald Earl, “Morality and Politics” from <i>The Moral and Political Tradition of Rome</i> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1967), pp. 11–43, 133–139 (Moodle)
10/3	<i>BC</i> 1.7–8
10/5	<i>BC</i> 1.9–10, with worksheet
10/7	<i>BC</i> 1.11–13
10/10	<i>BC</i> 1.14–15, with worksheet

10/12 Ruebel, Introduction pp. 1–19

10/14 **Test 2**

Fall Pause

W 10/19 Read C. Francese, “Reading the Romans: 7 Rules for Primary Texts” (on Moodle). Read Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* (on Moodle), first half. **Write five research questions** based on the Plutarch reading. These questions should be things you are curious about, but not purely factual items or questions that have a simple yes or no answer.

F 10/21 Plutarch, *Life of Caesar*, second half. **Write five research questions.**

M 10/24 Quiz on non-core vocab from BC 1.24–5. Write out synopsis of *repperio* (3 sing) and *eō, īre* (3 pl.).

W 10/26 Quiz on non-core vocab from BC 1.26. Identify all subjunctive uses in 1.24–25 (give the Latin word, the chapter and section numbers in which it occurs, name the subjective use, and cite the relevant section of Allen & Greenough).

F 10/28 Read Suetonius, *Life of Julius Caesar*. **Write five research questions.**

M 10/31 Quiz on non-core vocab from BC 1.27–28. Identify all subjunctive uses in 1.26–27.

W 11/2 Quiz on non-core vocab from BC 1.29-30

- F 11/4 Read Caesar, *BC* Book 2.23–44 in English (pp. 63–75), and Appian, *Civil Wars* 2.44–47 (pp. 92–94). How does Caesar portray Curio? What virtues and failings does Curio display? What are the differences in Appian’s account?
- M 11/7 Caesar, *BC* pp. 76–97 and make outline
- W 11/9 Caesar, *BC* pp. 97–122 and make outline
- F 11/11 Make a one-page bulleted outline comparing and contrasting the details of the accounts of the storming of Gomphi (Caesar, *BC* 3.71–81 = pp. 114–120 and Appian, *Civil Wars* 2.61–64 = pp. 101–103). Note the differences and attempt to explain them.
- M 11/14 Caesar, *BC* pp. 123–139 and make outline
- W 11/16 Appian, *BC* pp. 93–119 and make outline
- F 11/18 Appian, *BC* pp. 120–153 and make outline

M 11/21 **Close reading paper due**

Thanksgiving Break

- M 11/28 sight reading (work on research projects)
- W 11/30 sight reading (work on research projects)
- F 12/2 sight reading (work on research projects)
- M 12/5 Research reports (White, Schneider, Levin)
- W 12/7 Research reports (Leshner, Hoffer, Eidam)
- F 12/9 Research reports (Eaton, Downs, Benalayat)
- W 12/14 9:00 a.m.–noon. **Final Exam:** knowledge of dates and events in Caesar’s career (short answer IDs); translation at sight with non-core words glossed, with identification of subjunctives; essay.
- F 12/16 5:00 p.m. **revised research papers due.**