

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID



CLAH7002: Julius Caesar and his Times (Module Syllabus)

Module Code: CLAH7002
Credit points: 20
Pre-requisites/restrictions: None
Taught: Semester 1
Lecturer: Dr Matthew Adam Cobb

AIM(S)

- To enable students to demonstrate a detailed and critical understanding of the career of C. Julius Caesar, both in the context of the times in which he lived and in the light of modern theories and debate about the nature of public life in Rome in the second and first centuries BC.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- By the end of this module all students should be able to: draw upon a broad but also detailed knowledge of the life of C. Julius Caesar and of the social, cultural and political context of his times in order to analyse the events of his career in a critical manner;
- reformulate and apply modern debate about public life in Rome in the second and first centuries BC and about the nature of the Roman state to the interpretation of Julius Caesar's career;
- demonstrate not only an understanding of the major trends in modern scholarship but also an awareness of the importance of the historical context of those trends, and to engage with modern scholarship in a critical manner.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- The module is a comprehensive study of the fascinating figure of C. Julius Caesar (100 – 44 BC), a Roman statesman, general, and intellectual, whose extraordinary achievements have prompted deep interest through the centuries, and not just among ancient historians.
- The module will not simply cover the biography of Caesar, his political and military achievements, and the seminal political experiment marked by his dictatorship, but will

also examine the context in which Caesar's career unfolded, and the structural factors that made Caesar's success and the fall of the Roman Republic possible.

- The module will draw, in particular, upon the works written by Caesar himself, the Commentaries on the Gallic War and those on the Civil War. The evidence provided by an illustrious contemporary, M. Tullius Cicero, will also be at the forefront. The module aims to try to make sense of the remarkable personality of this man, and at the same time to explain Caesar's success within a longer-term account of Roman history.
- While the module is primarily historical in nature, much of the material that it covers will also be of value and interest to students of Latin literature and Roman religion.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

This 20 credit module has 10 units. You should aim to do approximately one unit per week.

Unit 1: The slow and by no means inevitable rise of Gaius Julius Caesar

Unit 2: Dirty hands, or: Caesar and Catiline

Unit 3: The First Triumvirate

Unit 4: Caesar in Gaul

Unit 5: Caesar as a writer

Unit 6: Talking to Rome

Unit 7: Before the Rubicon

Unit 8: In the thick of the Civil War

Unit 9: After Pharsalus: Building a Mediterranean Empire

Unit 10: Caesar's monarchy

ASSESSMENT

Course work

One 5,000 word essay (100%) – See Moodle for the coursework deadline.

Essay topics are chosen in consultation with the module tutor. This may include such topics as: A Critical analysis of why office of tribune of the Plebs played such an important role in Roman political life in the Late Republic and how Caesar made us of it.

Word count

Please note the following concerning the word count:

If the specified word limit for an assessment is exceeded, the following penalties apply: The penalty cannot take the work into the fail category.

- a. Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- b. Between 10% and 25% above the word limit – Deduction of 5 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- c. Between 25% and 50% above the word limit – Deduction of 10 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- d. 50% or more over length – Maximum mark of capped mark

Likewise, a failure to meet the maximum word limit may result in lower marks based on the quality of the work because they may not have included the necessary information required for the assessment and met the stated learning outcomes.

The feedback on the assessment should explicitly mention any mark deduction and the reason for it.

This is a regulation that has been passed by the AQSC in 2018/19 and is in action from September 2019.

Welsh First language

If your first language is Welsh and you would like to submit any assessed coursework in Welsh, please see the School Office as soon as possible to make arrangements for this.

PROGRESS

For each unit there is a focus question for distance students to consider. Distance students are required to write **one roughly 1,000 word post** on the discussion forum and **at least one suitably lengthy reply to the post of another distance student**. The idea is that your post will be related to one of the focus questions given in one of the ten units. However, you can be broad and flexible in your response to / engagement with these questions. These non-assessed assignments are designed to encourage dialogue, particularly among the distance student cohort.

Special needs / requirements

If you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia, visual impairment) that need to be taken into account for the teaching of this module, please make sure that the Student Support Liaison Officer is made aware of this so that we can make sure that the university can fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Your coursework will be returned electronically through Moodle. Detailed feedback is given on the turn-it-in assignment comments box and the grade rubric but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do come and see me during one of my office hours.

***** You need to watch plagiarism whenever you use secondary literature (ALL suspect coursework will be submitted to a Turn-It-In analysis).** Please consult the Reference Guide for advice on how to reference secondary literature.

In case of problems....

Do come and see me during office hours if you have any problems with the writing or planning of your piece of coursework. You are also welcome to see your personal tutor for advice.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential:

L. Canfora, Caesar. *The People's Dictator*, Edinburgh 2007.

Useful:

J. Osgood, *Caesar's Legacy: Civil War and the Emergence of the Roman Empire*, Cambridge 2006.

A. Riggsby, *Caesar in Gaul and Rome: War in Words*, Austin 2006.

F. Santangelo, *Sulla, the Elites and the Empire. A Study of Roman Policies in Italy and the Greek East*, Leiden-Boston 2007.

Z. Yavetz, *Julius Caesar and his Public Image*, London 1983.

K. Welch-A. Powell (eds.), *Julius Caesar as Artful Reporter. The War Commentaries as Political Instruments*, Swansea 1998.

J. H. C. Williams, *Beyond the Rubicon: Romans and Gauls in Republican Italy*, Oxford 2001.