

## **HIS 57101: Roman Frontiers**

Spring 2021

**Dr. Lee E. Patterson**

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**Office:** Coleman 2572

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**Office Hours:** TTh 9:00-10:00, W 9:00-11:00 and by appointment

**Class Meeting Times/Location:** T 6:00-8:30, Coleman Hall 2761

**Note:** I will be conducting my office hours on Zoom, which is linked on D2L. In general it's better to contact me by email rather than phone as I plan to spend as little time as possible in my office in the interests of public health. However, if you do wish a face-to-face meeting, I am happy to schedule one as long as you come with your mask on.

**Course Description:** This course will explore the frontiers of the Romans (both Republic and Empire) in terms of both Roman policy in the frontiers and the effects of that policy on indigenous cultures. The former will be assessed in part by consideration of Roman perceptions (and stereotypes) of peripheral peoples and assessment of Graeco-Roman sources for these indigenous cultures. The latter concerns how indigenous peoples negotiated their identity (e.g., religious, linguistic) in the face of Roman domination of their regions. A grounding of broader Roman history in the Republic and through the imperial period will also be provided to help with context.

### **Books From Textbook Rental:**

Boatwright, Mary, Daniel J. Gargola, Noel Lenski, and Richard J. A. Talbert. *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Isaac, Benjamin. *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Whittaker, C. R. *Frontiers of the Roman Empire: A Social and Economic Study*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

(All other items will be on D2L.)

<b>Grading:</b>	Participation (in-class):	20%	Participation (online):	10%
	Short Papers (2):	30%	Research Paper:	40%

**Grading Scale:** 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

### **COVID-19 Practices & Expectations on EIU's Campus**

First of all, please understand that **YOU MUST WEAR A FACE MASK IN CLASS AT ALL TIMES!!** The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing face coverings in class, around campus, in the library, and so on. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your friends, and loved ones at home. Additionally, students are expected not to attend class if they are ill and to consult the student health clinic (<https://www.eiu.edu/health/>) if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms. Please inform me if this is the case, and I will send you a form that Student Health will want filled out. As a faculty member, I am responsible for ensuring students engage in practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please contact Student Disability Services (217-581-6583,

[studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu)). If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you will not be allowed to remain in class as compliance with public health guidance is essential.

### **What happens in case of illness:**

- 1) If you are forced to miss class because you must be quarantined or isolated, you will not be penalized for not coming to class. If I have documentation from Student Health that you are unwell, I will waive in-class Participation requirements for any week that you have symptoms. I will also be happy to discuss that week's material with you some other way. Again, I must have documentation to proceed.
- 2) If I am forced to isolate, then, assuming I am well enough, we will hold class via Zoom for the duration of my quarantine.

**Contingencies (due to COVID-19):** There is a possibility that at some point in the semester the university will require all classes to switch to online in the event that the COVID-19 situation becomes too dangerous for in-person instruction. If that happens, this course will be converted to an asynchronous online course (asynchronous means you will work on your own time, adhering to weekly deadlines). Content and grading will mostly remain the same. The main difference will be that your Participation grade will convert entirely to online, and I will add to your weekly requirements in the Discussion Boards.

### **Explanation of Assignments**

**Participation:** All students are expected to have read all assignments on time according to the schedule below. We will discuss the material as normally in a seminar, but our discussions will be enhanced by preliminary preparation on D2L. Starting with the readings for Week 2, everyone will write a discussion question in the discussion board on D2L that can be answered based on the readings, due Sunday (two days before we discuss the material). Be sure to check the other student questions first to avoid duplication. On Monday I may supplement these questions with one or two of my own. These questions will form part of the framework of our conversations in class every Tuesday.

**Short Papers:** The specific parameters of the short papers will be determined closer to their due dates, but in general these will potentially involve a closer reading of a few sources than weekly discussion affords or possibly a synthesis of different ideas discussed in recent weeks. The due dates for the two short papers given below are *very* tentative. More details to come.

**Research Paper:** This will be a traditional seminar paper requiring advanced historical research. I will work with you on the various stages of the research process, including selecting a topic, finding sources, and developing argumentation. The paper will be 15-20 pages. Fuller guidelines will be provided later.

**Attendance and Make-Up Policy:** Regular attendance should be considered a top priority. Roll will be taken at the start of each class. Absences can only be excused if your absence on that day was absolutely unavoidable (e.g., a serious medical condition, a serious accident, etc.), and you will need to provide written documentation. No exceptions! (Believe me when I say this: if you are not totally committed to the class and attend regularly, chances are you will not get the grade you want.)

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. Additionally, serious violations such as plagiarism and cheating may result in a course grade of F.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). If you are a hearing-impaired person who normally reads lips and is prevented from doing so because I'm wearing a mask, please let me know as soon as possible. All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym Room 1210, call 217-581-6583, or email [studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu) to make an appointment. *Waiting to the last minute to make requests is strongly discouraged.*

**Technology Issues:** I'm happy to help you with some technology issues, but in general your best bet is to consult Campus Technology Support: Phone: (217) 581-4357; Email: [support@eiu.edu](mailto:support@eiu.edu); Twitter: [@EIU ITS](#); Web: <https://www.eiu.edu/panthertech/>.

### Research Resources for Ancient History

Along with any other search engine you normally use, the following will potentially be useful: JSTOR, Google Scholar, etc. (accessible through Booth, select under the search box:

<https://www.library.eiu.edu/welcome.php>)

<http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/> (This is the Bryn Mawr Classical Review database and is very useful for finding recent books on your topic.)

<https://www.academia.edu/> (This website includes many articles uploaded by the authors themselves. You can search for various topics related to your selected frontier. You never know what you might find, but you might come up lucky.)

A couple more search engines devoted to the ancient world:

<http://projects.chass.utoronto.ca/amphoras/tocs.html>

<http://www.gnomon.ku-eichstaett.de/Gnomon/en/Gnomon.html>

### Bibliography

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- Boozer, Anna Lucille. "Frontiers and Borderlands in Imperial Perspectives: Exploring Rome's Egyptian Frontier." *American Journal of Archaeology* 117, no. 2 (2013): 275-92.
- Braund, David. *Rome and the Friendly King: The Character of the Client Kingship*. London and Canberra: Croom Helm, 1984.

- Cameron, Hamish. *Making Mesopotamia: Geography and Empire in a Romano-Iranian Borderland*. Leiden: Brill, 2019.
- Cherry, David. "Armed Resistance to Roman Rule in North Africa, from the Time of Augustus to the Vandal Invasion." *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 31, no. 5 (2020): 1044-57.
- Clarysse, Willy. "Ethnic Identity: Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans." In *A Companion to Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt*, edited by Katelijn Vandorpe, 299-314. Hoboken: Wiley, 2019.
- Da Costa, K. "Drawing the Line: An Archaeological Methodology for Detecting Roman Provincial Borders." In *Frontiers in the Roman World*, edited by Ted Kaizer and Olivier Hekster, 49-60. Leiden: Brill, 2011.
- Drijvers, Jan Willem. "Ammianus Marcellinus, King Pap and the Dominance over Armenia." In *Diwan. Studies in the History and Culture of the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean*, edited by C. Binder, H. Börm, and A. Luther, 571-90. Duisburg: Wellem, 2016.
- Edwell, Peter. "Sasanian Interactions with Rome and Byzantium." In *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, edited by D. T. Potts, 840-55. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Edwell, Peter. "Osroene and Mesopotamia between Rome and Arsacid Parthia." In *Arsacids, Romans, and Local Elites: Cross-Cultural Interactions of the Parthian Empire*, edited by Jason M. Schlude and Benjamin B. Rubin, 111-35. Oxford and Philadelphia: Oxbow, 2017.
- Elton, Hugh. *Frontiers of the Roman Empire*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.
- Erskine, Andrew. "Encountering Carthage: Mid-Republican Rome and Mediterranean Culture." In *Creating Ethnicities & Identities in the Roman World*, edited by Andrew Gardner, Edward Herring, Kathryn Lomas, 113-29. London: Institute of Classical Studies, 2013.
- Fisher, Greg. *Between Empires: Arabs, Romans, and Sasanians in Late Antiquity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Greatrex, Geoffrey. "Roman Frontiers and Foreign Policy in the East." In *Aspects of the Roman East. Papers in Honour of Professor Fergus Millar FBA*, edited by R. Alston and S. Lieu, 103-73. Turnhout: Brepols, 2007.
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- Gruen, Erich S. "Rome and the Greek World." In *The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic*, edited by Harriet I. Flower, 242-67. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
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- Hekster, Olivier. "Trophy Kings and Roman Power: A Roman Perspective on Client Kingdoms." In *Kingdoms and Principalities in the Roman Near East*, edited by Ted Kaizer and Margherita Facella, 45-55. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2010.
- Hingley, Richard and Rich Hartis. "Contextualizing Hadrian's Wall: The Wall as 'Debatable Lands.'" In *Frontiers in the Roman World*, edited by Ted Kaizer and Olivier Hekster, 79-96. Leiden: Brill, 2011.
- Isaac, Benjamin. *The Limits of Empire: The Roman Army in the East*. Rev. Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.
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- Johnston, Andrew C. *The Sons of Remus: Identity in Roman Gaul and Spain*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017.

- Kaden, David A. "Flavius Josephus and the 'Gentes Devictae' in Roman Imperial Discourse: Hybridity, Mimicry, and Irony in the Agrippa II Speech." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 42 (2011): 481-507.
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- Mattingly, David J. *Imperialism, Power, and Identity: Experiencing the Roman Empire*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.
- Mattingly, David J. "Conclusion and Final Discussion: A View from the Far South." In *Romans and Barbarians Beyond the Frontiers: Archaeology, Ideology and Identities in the North*, edited by Sergio González Sánchez and Alexandra Guglielmi, 152-56. Oxford, Philadelphia: Oxbow Books, 2017.
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- Voß, Hans-Ulrich, and David Wigg-Wolf. "Romans and Roman Finds in the Central European Barbaricum: A New View on Romano-Germanic Relations?" In *Romans and Barbarians Beyond the Frontiers: Archaeology, Ideology and Identities in the North*, edited by Sergio González Sánchez and Alexandra Guglielmi, 105-24. Oxford, Philadelphia: Oxbow Books, 2017.
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- Whitmarsh, Tim. "Thinking Local." In *Local Knowledge and Microidentities in the Imperial Greek World*, edited by Tim Whitmarsh, 1-16. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Whittaker, C. R. *Frontiers of the Roman Empire: A Social and Economic Study*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

For classical texts, you may wish to consult the following database:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>

### *Tentative Schedule (subject to change)*

#### **Unit I: Frontiers and Strategy**

##### Week 1

T Jan 12: Introduction: Who are the Romans?

**Readings:** [Meet the Romans with Mary Beard](#); Boatwright et al. 2012 (passim) [please consult as necessary]

**Assignment:** Watch the Mary Beard video. As needed, watch the narrated PowerPoints. You may post questions if you like, but none are required for this week.

##### Week 2

T Jan 19: What do we mean by "frontiers" and "provinces"?

**Readings:** Whittaker 1994: 1-97; Richardson 2011; Da Costa 2011

**Assignment:** Questions due Jan 17

##### Week 3

T Jan 26: Did the Romans have a "grand strategy"?

**Readings:** Luttwak 1976: 7-30, 51-60, 80-111, 127-54, 191-94

**Assignment:** Questions due Jan 24

##### Week 4

T Feb 2: Responses to Luttwak (to be conducted over Zoom)

**Readings:** Isaac 1992: 372-418; Wheeler 1993; Kagan 2006

**Assignment:** Questions due Jan 31

##### Week 5

T Feb 9: Allies and Enemies: How can you tell?

**Readings:** Whittaker 1994: 132-91; Braund 1984: 91-99; Elton 1996: 29-39; Hekster 2010; Mattern 1999: 81-122

**Assignment:** Questions due Feb 7

#### **Unit II: The Western Regions**

##### Week 6

T Feb 16: North Africa

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 324-335; Erskine 2013; Cherry 2020; Mattingly 2011: 146-66; Mattingly 2017

**Assignments:** Questions due Feb 14

Week 7

T Feb 23: Britain, Gaul, and Spain

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 411-26; Webster 2001; Johnston 2017: 231-82; Hingley and Hartis 2011

**Assignments:** Questions due Feb 21; **Short Paper #1** due Feb 21 (in Dropbox by midnight)

Week 8

T Mar 2: Germany and Danubian Regions; **Research Workshop**

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 427-39; Seager 1999; Voß and Wigg-Wolf 2017

**Assignments:** Questions due Feb 28

**Unit III: The Eastern Regions**Week 9

T Mar 9: The Greek World

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 304-23, 381-405; Gruen 2004; Alcock 1993: 1-32; Whitmarsh 2010; Ando 2010

**Assignments:** Questions due Mar 7; **Thesis Statements** due Mar 7 (recommended deadline)

Week 10

T Mar 16: Egypt

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 352-70; Sullivan 1990: 229-79; Boozer 2013; Vandorpe 2012; Clarysse 2019

**Assignments:** Questions due Mar 14

Week 11

T Mar 23: Persia

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 371-80; Hauser 2013; Wheeler 2002; Edwell 2013; Greatrex 2007; Roman Sources on the Parthians

**Assignments:** Questions due Mar 21; **Progress Report and Bibliography** due Mar 21 (recommended deadline)

T Mar 30: Class cancelled for “Spring Break”

Week 12

T Apr 6: Syria and Judaea

**Readings:** Isaac 2004: 335-51, 440-91; Berlin 2002; Kaden 2011; Smith 2013: 55-120

**Assignments:** Questions due Apr 4; **Short Paper #2** due Apr 4 (in Dropbox by midnight)

Week 13

T Apr 13: Mesopotamia and Arabia

**Readings:** Cameron 2019: 1-44; Edwell 2017; Fisher 2011: 1-33, 72-127

**Assignments:** Questions due Apr 11; **Optional Rough Draft** due Apr 11 (recommended deadline)

Week 14

T Apr 20: Armenia

**Readings:** Patterson 2021; Patterson unpublished (you can skim this); Traina 2018; Gregoratti 2013; Patterson 2013; Drijvers 2016; Thomson 1988-1989

**Assignments:** Questions due Apr 18

**Unit IV: Wrapping Up****Week 15**

T Apr 27: Final Thoughts: What are the lessons of studying the Roman frontiers?

S May 2: **Research Paper (final draft)** due (in Dropbox by midnight)