

CLCV/HIST 4210A (Winter Term 2026): Topics in Ancient History: Cicero v Catiline
The College of the Humanities, Greek and Roman Studies Program
Dr. Jaclyn Neel
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Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05 -11:55 AM

**Office hours: Thursdays from 1-2 PM (no appointment necessary), or by
appointment if you need a different time**

Course Brightspace: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/372919>

Course description:

Intended for Honours students in History and Classics who should normally be in the third and fourth-years. Also listed as [HIST 4210](#).

Prerequisite(s): [CLCV 2902 \(HIST 2902\)](#), [CLCV 2903 \(HIST 2903\)](#) or [CLCV 2904 \(HIST 2904\)](#), [CLCV 2905 \(HIST 2905\)](#) or [CLCV 3201](#) or [CLCV 3202](#) or permission of the unit.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance & participation: 25%

This includes your physical presence in class, your contribution to class discussion, and your ability to cogently discuss assigned readings

Reading Quizzes: 25% (drop lowest grade)

There will be unscheduled ("pop") quizzes of five minutes on selected readings to assess your understanding of the assigned material. They will be closed-book, but you may use paper notes to jog your memory

Game journal: 25% (due Mar 26)

For the Reacting to the Past game that we will play for three weeks, you are required to keep a handwritten journal (Romans did not own laptops!). This journal should include (a) relevant quotes from the readings; (b) your in-character thoughts regarding what is happening in Rome and what you should do about it; and (c) your out-of-character reflection on the experience of being a Roman at this time in history.

Final paper: 25% (due Apr 8)

How would your character respond to ONE of the questions below, and how would you? In 1500 words, explain the differences and similarities in your answer using specific examples from the readings and relevant personal information.

1. When does the preservation of civil order justify the state to violate cherished rights? In other words, when does necessary reform authorize a group to overturn established norms?
2. What proof is needed to act against an opponent? How should citizens and the government behave in a time of instability?
3. How does cultural memory shape present political action?

Required Texts:

1. *Cicero Political Speeches*, ed. D. H. Berry, Oxford University Press: \$15.50 (Amazon.ca); on reserve at MacOdrum
2. *The Crisis of Catiline: 63 BCE*, by B. Mulligan, UNC Press: \$40.95; on reserve at MacOdrum
3. *A Companion to the Political Culture of the Roman Republic*, ed. J. Prag and V. Arena, Wiley: [free from MacOdrum](#)
4. Selected articles from jstor: free from MacOdrum
5. Notebook of your choice: prices vary

Course Goals and Assessments:

1. Students will learn about late-Republican era Roman government and politics (readings, quizzes, class lectures)
2. By creatively exploring historical events, students will practice the skills of a historian, including close reading, analysis and reconstruction of past events, identification of themes and patterns in data, contextualization, and identifying causal mechanisms (readings, game, journal, final paper)
3. Students will improve their oral and written communications skills (game, journal, final paper)

Course Policies:

- **Turning in assignments:** The final paper should be turned in on Brightspace. Quizzes and the journal will be turned in in class.
- **Extensions:** You may request an extension of up to 2 days for the journal up to 2 hours in advance of the deadline. This extension is primarily meant to allow students who are unwell on the day that the journal is due to turn in their journals without penalty. There will be no extensions allowed on other course work, barring extenuating circumstances; in case of the latter, please email.
- **Late or missed work:** Late journals will be accepted with a penalty of 1% per day of lateness, calculated by when I receive the journal (for example, if you turn in the journal on Saturday and I receive it on Tuesday, it will be considered 5 days late). Late papers and quizzes will not be accepted, and will be treated as “missed”. There is no opportunity to make up missed work.
- **Reuse of work:** You may reuse your own work from another class if you wish, without acknowledgment.
- **LLMs (Gen AI):** You should not use LLMs or generative AI to write any material that you turn in to me. Please respect the time that it takes me to read your work and provide you with substantive feedback to improve your writing. Although you may use AI to support your research, I strongly discourage you from doing so; not only is it disrespectful of the copyright of the many scholars whose work has been used without consent to train these models, AI output often has mistakes and must be checked for accuracy by someone who is familiar with the material. In the event that you do choose to use AI, I expect you to cite that use just

as you would cite the use of any other aid; failure to cite is a breach of academic integrity.

FASS offers the following advice to students: “As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.”

- **Recording of classes:** Unless you have a documented accessibility requirement, it is not permitted to record class conversations or lectures.
- **Regrading:** I will consider requests for regrading in the event that you think I have misunderstood your argument or made an error.

In addition, please note the following FASS policies:

- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).
- As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>
- The following paragraph is taken from Carleton’s Academic Integrity Policy: “The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
 - any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Preliminary schedule:

Note: readings are linked on Brightspace for clarity

Week 1 (Jan 6, 8). Historical Background: The Gracchi, Marius & Sulla. Reading: Benness/Hillard, Tatum, and Pina Polo in Prag/Arena; Mulligan 17-30

Week 2 (Jan 13, 15). Historical Background: Social War. Reading: Morstein-Marx, "Roman Republican Political Culture: Values and Ideology"; Beck "Republican Elites: Patricians, *Nobiles*, Senators and Equestrians"; Cornell, "The Plebeian Assemblies"; Mulligan 30-33

Week 3 (Jan 20, 22). Historical Background: Pompey, introducing Cicero. Reading: On Pompey's Command; Steel, "Rhetoric and Roman Political Culture"; Coudry, "The Senate"; Billows, *Julius Caesar* ch. 4 (Roman Politics in the 60s)

Week 4 (Jan 27, 29). Historical Background: 1st Catilinarian Conspiracy, Catiline. Reading: Gruen, "Notes on the First Catilinarian"; Woodman, "Cicero and Sallust"; Seager, "First Catilinarian Conspiracy"; Mulligan 33-36.

Week 5 (Feb 3, 5). Catiline. Reading: Cats 1, 2; McDermott "Publication of the Catilinarian Orations"; Krostenko, "Text and Context in the Roman Forum"; Batstone "Consular Ethos"

Week 6 (Feb 10, 12). Catiline. Reading: Cats. 3, 4; Rauh, "Prostitutes, Pimps, and Political Conspiracies during the Late Roman Republic"; Cape, "Rhetoric of Politics"; Vasaly, "Transforming the Visible"

Feb 16-20: BREAK

Week 7 (Feb 24, 26). GAME – Rules + Practice Sessions. Start journals. Reading: Sallust, [Catiline](#) 5-19, 50-55, 60-61; Plutarch, [Cicero](#) 10-24. TEXT IN BOOK. Pagan, *Conspiracy Narratives* ch. 1 (Sallust); Mulligan 1-16; 39-70.

Week 8 (Mar 3, 5). GAME – Amnesty, Land reform. Readings: Mulligan 93-95, 102-108 (Livy 2; Agrarian Law)

Week 9 (Mar 10, 12). GAME – Debt reform, SCU. Reading: Mulligan 112-115 (Livy 6; Duties)

Week 10 (Mar 17, 19) GAME – SCU, Consequences. Reading: Mulligan 84-88 (Verrines; Laws

(schedule continues on the next page)

Week 11 (Mar 24, 26) DEBRIEF + “REAL” Catiline. Was there a conspiracy? Turn in journals March 26. Reading: Beck, “Plutarch” in Prag/Arena; Yavetz, “Failure of Catiline’s Conspiracy”; Waters, “Cicero, Sallust, Catiline”

Week 12 (Mar 31, Apr 2) Cicero’s exile and Clodius. Reading: Neel, “Rhetoric of Fear”; Nebelin, “Catilinarian Insurgency”; Seager, *Pompey the Great* ch. 9 (“The Exile of Cicero”)

Week 13 (Apr 7) Wrap up. Reading: Harrison, “Catiline, Clodius, and Popular Politics”; Seager, “The (Re/De)Construction of Clodius”; Canfora, *Julius Caesar* ch. 12 (“An Inconvenient Ally”).

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (December 2025)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#). [Grade Appeal Process Information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The

Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as 'presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.' This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than **three (3) working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must complete the University's self-declaration form which is included in the deferral application found on the [Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

1. Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.
 - a) Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#).

Department Contact Information

Digital Humanities (Minor), Bachelor of the Humanities, Greek and Roman Studies, and
MEMS:

300 Paterson Hall

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion and Digital Humanities (Graduate):

2A39 Paterson Hall

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca