CX355-30 The Transformation of Roman Society under Augustus

26/27

Department
Classics & Ancient History
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Alison Cooley
Credit value
30
Module duration
23 weeks
Assessment
50% coursework, 50% exam
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is designed to offer an introduction to the age of Augustus. Over the course of the module, you will be asked to develop your analytical skills by engaging with a range of primary source materials, including ancient texts, epigraphy, numismatics, art, and archaeology, while becoming familiar with a key set of issues related to ancient history and historiography.

Q800, Q802, QQ37 students may take this module as a Latin text option.

Module web page

Module aims

This module concentrates upon a critical period of Roman history, during which the society, economy, culture, and politics of Rome, Italy and the provinces underwent dramatic transformation. It seeks to explore how there was no single moment of transformation, but a sequence of experiments and changes throughout the period 44 BC - AD 14. It explores the emergence of a new political and social order at Rome and beyond, in Italy and the provinces - not just in the form of the princeps himself, but also new noble families, the imperial household

(including women, children, freedmen, and slaves), equestrians, and the inter-relationship between the plebs of Rome and Rome's ruler. The module deals with political, economic, social, and cultural issues, confronting them through an inter-disciplinary study of literature, art, archaeology, inscriptions, architecture, and coins. The module does not limit itself to the figure of Augustus himself, nor even to the city of Rome, but also considers the impact of Augustus' reign upon Italy and the provinces. It examines the transformation of Roman society as reflected in legislation, ideology, religion, and economy. It also assesses the changing perception of Augustus' historical importance in the eyes of post-antique societies, considering factors behind the relatively recent emphasis on Augustus rather than Julius Caesar as the key figure in the history of Rome.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

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Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- assess the significance of material culture in the self-presentation of the Augustan regime
- appreciate the complexities of tracing the political history of a period for which no contemporary narrative historical source survives
- outline and understand the fundamental changes undergone by Roman society and politics from 31 BC to AD 14
- perceive how important the political programmes of modern regimes may be in forming our picture of the past
- develop methodological principles in how to deal with archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, art, architecture, and literature
- be aware of the problems of studying the period chiefly through translated ancient texts
- Have enhanced their research, writing and communication skills

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Subject specific skills

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- assess the significance of material culture in the self-presentation of the Augustan regime
- appreciate the complexities of tracing the political history of a period for which no contemporary narrative historical source survives
- outline and understand the fundamental changes undergone by Roman society and politics from 31 BC to AD 14
- perceive how important the political programmes of modern regimes may be in forming our picture of the past
- develop methodological principles in how to deal with archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, art, architecture, and literature be aware of the problems of studying the period chiefly through translated ancient text.

In addition, final-year students should be able to show:

- The ability to set their findings into a wider comparative context, drawing in other aspects of the study of the ancient world
- The ability to seek out appropriate secondary literature and show discernment in the types of primary evidence addressed.

Transferable skills

- critical thinking
- problem solving
- active lifelong learning
- communication
- information literacy
- ICT literacy
- organisational awareness

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	36 sessions of 1 hour (12%)	
Total	300 hours	

Type	Required	Optional
Seminars	6 sessions of 1 hour (2%)	
Tutorials	2 sessions of 15 minutes (0%)	
Practical classes	(0%)	20 sessions of 1 hour
Private study	257 hours 30 minutes (86%)	
Total	300 hours	

Private study description

private study and revision

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Books and learning materials	approx. £30 for texts	Student	£30.00

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group C3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
First Essay A 2,500-3000 word essay.	25%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Second Essay A 2,500-3000 word essay.	25%		Yes (extension)

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
In-person Examination (Summer) A 2-hour exam.	50%		No

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback via Tabula + individual tutorials on assessed work. Exam feedback on request via personal tutor, according to dept policy.

Past exam papers for CX355

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-Q820 Undergraduate Classical Civilisation

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-Q800 BA in Classics
- Year 4 of UCXA-VV19 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology with Study Abroad
- Year 4 of UCXA-Q802 Undergraduate Classics (Latin) with Study in Europe
- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ39 Undergraduate English and Classical Civilisation

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-Q801 Undergraduate Classics (Ancient Greek) with Study in Europe

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-VV16 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology
- Year 4 of UCXA-VV18 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology with Study in Europe
- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-Q800 BA in Classics
- Year 3 of UCXA-VV16 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology
- Year 3 of UCXA-Q820 Undergraduate Classical Civilisation
- Year 4 of UCXA-Q821 Undergraduate Classical Civilisation with Study in Europe
- Year 4 of UCXA-Q802 Undergraduate Classics (Latin) with Study in Europe

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-Q82P Undergraduate Classical Civilisation