

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

Suetonius' Lives of the Twelve Caesars

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Zoë Eisenman	COURSE LENGTH: 6 Weeks DATES: June 13 – July 25 – No class July 4	Remote Course
EMAIL: Zme1@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 9:30 am – 12:45 pm CT	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70245 24U1 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In *The Twelve Caesars*, Suetonius examines the amazing and sometimes bizarre lives of the early rulers of the Roman Empire, beginning with Julius Caesar and ending with Domitian. Composed as biographies rather than histories, these Lives delve into their physical attributes and private behavior in addition to official public acts and careers, calling out qualities and actions worthy of praise or blame. Suetonius served as an imperial secretary under the later emperors Trajan and Hadrian, and he used his access to imperial correspondence and archives as sources for his portraits, along with things like graffiti and popular rumors and scandals. The resulting work gives us an exposé of the virtues and vices of the emperors, exploring the relationship between character and power.

Please read Chapter 1 on Julius Caesar for the first class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *The Twelve Caesars* by Suetonius (trans. Robert Graves, James Rives) Penguin Classics, ISBN 978-0140455168

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 June 13	Suetonius	Julius Caesar
WEEK 2 June 20	Suetonius	Augustus
WEEK 3 June 26 (no class July 4)	Suetonius	Tiberius
WEEK 4 July 11	Suetonius	Caligula, Claudius
WEEK 5 July 18	Suetonius	Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius
WEEK 6 July 25	Suetonius	Vespasian, Titus, Domitian

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.