

# THE CRISIS OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

LATIN 215 - NEW COURSE FALL 2004

Antony  
Caesar  
Cicero  
Cleopatra  
Crassus  
Marius  
Pompey  
Sulla

LATIN 215: MWF 11:30 - 12:20  
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By 146 BCE, Rome had annihilated its mortal enemy, Carthage, and taken control of the Greek east. At last the Romans could legitimately call the Mediterranean, *Mare Nostrum* ('our sea'). Through the crucible of brutal, but ultimately successful, foreign wars, the Romans had forged one of the longest-lasting and stable political systems in human history - the Roman Republic. A century later, Rome was paradoxically both stronger and weaker: militarily dominant in Europe, Africa, and Asia; but in the final stages of a hundred year slide into tyranny, as three generations of civil war obliterated the customs and institutions of the Republic.

In this course, we will consider what social, political, and military factors led to the crisis of the Roman Republic; how Romans - statesmen and poets alike - reacted to the crisis; how Rome emerge from that crisis; and what significance this period of Roman history had for later cultures. Among the larger questions we will explore are the relationship between empire and democracy and the interaction of personal desire and professional duty... all while learning to read and appreciate Latin.