Lifelong Learning Course

Spring Term 2015      Dr. Douglas Kenning

Outline of the History of Ancient Rome’s Rise and Fall

This is an outline of great men and wars, not because these are the most important things to talk about, but that they are specific in time, and thus can be historical markers, landmarks to mark the progress through history. I intend our class to spend as much time on Roman society, government, and creativity.

BCE:

753. foundation of Rome by Romulus.
Regal Period (753-510):
753-716. Romulus.
716-673. Numa Pompilius.
673-641. Tullus Hostilius.
640-616. Ancus Marcius.
616-578. Tarquinius Priscus.
578-534. Servius Tullius.
534-510. Tarquinius Superbus

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

509. Battle of Lake Regillus.
390. siege of Rome by Goth Brennus. Battle at the Allia River (July 18).
387. planting of the first military or Latin colonies.
343-341. First Samnite War.
340-338. Latin War.
338. Antium, the first Roman or maritime colony.
326-304, Second Samnite War.
312. construction of the Appian Way.
298-290. Third Samnite War.
281-272. Wars against Pyrrhus.
272. Rome becomes mistress of Italy; morality at its height.

period of overseas conquest begins

264-241. First Punic War.

7. Sardinia and Corsica acquired, and provincial system established.
229. Illyrican War.
225. Gallia Cisalpina (foothills of Alps) acquired by Battle of Telamon.
220. Hannibal reorganizes Carthaginian Army in Spain.
212. Marcellus captures Syracuse, overcoming defenses of Archimedes.
202. Scipio Africanus defeats Hannibal at Battle of Zama.
214-205. First Macedonian War.
204. Cult of Magna Mater introduced.
200-197. Second Macedonian War.
171-168. Third Macedonian War.
149-146. Third Punic War.
149. death of Cato the Elder.
146. destruction of Carthage and Corinth.
143-133. Numantine War.
134-132. First Servile War (slave revolt) in Sicily
133. reforms of Tiberius Gracchus.
123-121. Gaius Gracchus.
104-100. Second Servile War (slave revolt) in Sicily
90-89. Italian or Social War.
86-84. Sulla's campaign against Mithradates.
80. reforms of Sulla.
73-71. Third Servile War (slave revolt) in Italy, led by Spartacus.
72-67. campaign of Lucullus against Mithradates.
67. Pompey suppresses Mediterranean piracy.
67-61. Pompey conquers the Near East.
63. Cicero as Consul. Catiline conspiracy.
58-49. Caesar’s conquests in Gaul.
57. recall of Cicero. Return of Cato.
53–52. death of Crassus. Pompey's consulship and separation from Caesar.
49. Caesar crosses the Rubicon. Siege and capture of Ilerda.
44 (Mar. 15). Assassination of Caesar. Eruption of Mt. Aetna described by Livy
43. The Second Triumvirate. (Dec.) Murder of Cicero.
42. (Nov.) Battle of Philippi, Octavian and Antony defeat Brutus & Cassius
31. (Sept. 2). Battle of Actium, Octavian defeats Antony & Cleopatra. Octavian takes power as Caesar Augustus

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Julio-Claudian Dynasty:
30 BCE -14 CE. Caesar Augustus.

CE:
9. Teutoberg Forest disaster.
14-37. Tiberius.
37-41. Caligula.
41-54. Claudius. 43 Britain occupied.
54-68. Nero. Few public works, much power in hands of Seneca. Fire in Rome, Christians blamed & persecuted (Paul & Peter martyred)
68–69: Year of Four Emperors

Flavian Dynasty:
79. destruction of Jerusalem, begins Jewish Diaspora. Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroys Pompeii, Herculaneum, etc.

79-81. Titus.
81-96. Domitian.

Five “Good” Emperors:
96-98. Nerva.
138-161. Antoninus Pius.

180-192. Commodus & year of 6 emperors

Severan Dynasty:
193–211 Septimus Severus
211–217. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus nicknamed "Caracalla"
235–284: Crisis of Third Century, with 25 emperors
306–312. seven emperor candidates at war
312-363. Constantine the Great & his sons -- Constantinian Dynasty. Capital moved to Constantinople,
312. Edict of Milan.
325. Council of Nicea (Nicaea).
361–364: Julian (“The Apostate”) & Jovian
Valentinian & Valens
376~82. Roman defeat in Gothic War
378. Battle of Adrianopolis. Roman army crushed by Goths
379–457: Theodosian Dynasty
379–395. Theodosius “the Great”
404–407: Alaric, King of Goths, invades Italy. Vandals, & Burgundians invade Gaul. Despite Roman victories against them, Germanics pour into Italy from north. Last of Roman Legions from Britain to defend homeland against Goths.
410. Sack of Rome.
476. mercenary leader Odoacer overthrows Emperor Romulus Augustulus, ending Roman Empire.