

THE ANCIENT WORLD: ROME

Suggested Topics for Paper #1

1. In the Preface to his history, Livy makes several remarks about the difficulty of writing the history of early Rome. In what ways are those remarks reflected (or not) in the narrative that follows in Books 1-5?
 - Begin with the passages of Livy assigned for Weeks 1-2; but feel free (and encouraged) to read more widely in Books 1-5.
 - Remember to make use of Luce's introduction to the Oxford World's Classics translation where appropriate.

2. What can we learn about the society and economy of Rome in the 5th and 4th centuries BC from the Twelve Tables and Livy Books 2-5?
 - Be sure to consider the *nature* of the two sources in question and your consequent estimation of their relative value as sources for the economy and society of early Rome.

3. Scholars frequently describe Rome of the 5th-2nd centuries BC as 'a profoundly military society'. How consistent with this description is the portrait of Roman society that emerges from Plutarch's biography of Cato?
 - You might find it useful to complement your account of Plutarch's *Cato* with references to relevant passages of Livy Books 2-5 and Polybius Book 6.

4. A topic of your choice, to be approved by Prof. Broadhead or Prof. Ostrow **by Friday, February 18.**

Paper #1 is due at the beginning of the lecture on Thursday, February 24.

Please be sure to consult the guidelines for writing and submitting papers, included in the syllabus, before beginning work on your essay.