

THE ANCIENT WORLD: ROME

Suggested Topics for Paper #2

DUE Tuesday, March 29

1. Democracy or oligarchy: which is a better description of the practical functioning of the 'mixed constitution' of the Roman republic from Polybius to Julius Caesar?

- A good answer to this question will not only demonstrate a close and critical familiarity with Polybius' description of the constitution in Book 6 of his *Histories*, but will also take account of relevant continuity and change over the course of the period (e.g. reforms of the Gracchi and of Sulla; the 'popular' politicians of the 1st c. BC; etc).

2. In what ways do Plutarch's concerns (political, moral, aesthetic etc.) as a writer affect his reconstruction of the internal conflicts of the 1st century BC in his biographies of Marius, Sulla, Pompey, and Julius Caesar?

- You will probably find Stadter's introduction to the Oxford World's Classics edition useful in beginning to think about this question.

3. How would you account for the differences in the portrayals of Augustus found in a) the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, b) Tacitus, *Annals* 1.1-10, and c) Suetonius' biography of Augustus?

4. A topic of your choice, to be approved by Prof. Broadhead or Prof. Ostrow by Friday, March 18 (in other words, *before* you go away for Spring Vacation).

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