**#LateRepublic**

Latin Ba Final Assignment

**THE SETUP**

The class will be divided into three groups, corresponding to the three main factions active in the Late Roman Republic:

- **the Optimates**: continued to uphold the traditional methods of competition amongst senators

- **the Populares**: sought wider popularity among the citizen body as a means of advancement

- **the "Moderates"**: disliked change for the sake of change, balked from openly choosing a side in the conflicts of the Late Republic, and hoped for a return to the way things were in the good old days of the Republic

Groups should secure the necessary Twitter accounts in order to complete the assignment. Each group will be responsible for devising its Twitter response system, or, as it were, its propaganda strategy in reaction to the news events of the day. A group may decide to present themselves as a unified front, with a single Twitter handle filtering the comments from several individuals. A group may instead decide to take a "power in numbers" approach, inundating a story with similar comments from a variety of individuals, thus showing some semblance of broader consensus. A third, more underhanded option, may lead a group to set up dummy accounts as straw-men to be taken apart by their distinguished party affiliates. Use whatever tactics you deem necessary to garner the support of the Roman Internet community. (I hear those Egyptians have a thing for cat pictures...)

**THE PROCESS**

Each group will be responsible for tweeting the thoughts and opinions of individuals within their respective groups with regard to major events of the Late Roman Republic, which will be announced by "The Daily Roman" (twitter.com/daily\_roman). Each student should respond to every event.

The following events will be tweeted during Reading Period, starting at **5pm on December 2nd**:

- Consulship of Cicero (63 BCE)

- Formation of the First Triumvirate (60 BCE)

- Defeat of Crassus' forces in Parthia (53 BCE)

- Caesar crossing the Rubicon (49 BCE)

- Pompey killed in Egypt (48 BCE)

- Cato commits suicide in Africa (46 BCE)

- Assassination of Julius Caesar (44 BCE)

- Formation of the Second Triumvirate (43 BCE)

- Brutus and Cassius defeated at Philippi (42 BCE)

- Defeat of Sextus Pompey at Naulochus, Sicily (36 BCE)

- "Donations of Alexandria" (34 BCE)

- Battle of Actium (31 BCE)

- Battle of Alexandria (30 BCE)

- Octavian's Triple Triumph (29 BCE)

- Octavian granted the title "Augustus" (27 BCE)

**THE RESEARCH**

All tweeted responses should be contextualized historically. As such, students should consult primary sources in order to substantiate their responses. Keep in mind, however, that some sources, like the biographies that we have been reading this semester, include some more sensationalized accounts, much like we see in today's media. The truth, if such a thing exists, can be stretched, as long as you can legitimately back it up with ancient sources, both textual and material. Students are asked to supply a list of their tweets with citations, in footnote or endnote format, on the day of the Final Exam, **December 15th**.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**

In order to facilitate your preparation for this assignment, here is a short list of primary texts that should be useful in formulating your Twitter personas. All of these texts, in addition to the texts which we have encountered this semester, fall under the genre of biography, in one form or another, and contain historically significant information, tinged by the more sensational aspects we might come to expect from biographical writing and, for the most part, news media in the present day. These texts and their translations are available for free through the Loeb Classical Library Online.

- Augustus, *Res Gestae*

- Plutarch, *Lives of Crassus, Pompey*, *Caesar*, *Cato (Younger)*, *Cicero*, *Antony, & Brutus*

- Suetonius, *Life of Divus Iulius*

On the course website, you will also find scans of chapters 6-8 of the textbook *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. These chapters should provide more synthetic context for the events of the Late Republic.

**GRADING RUBRIC**

Tweeted responses to "The Daily Roman" **75%**

Notes with proper citation (Due December 15th) **25%**

**GROUPS**

Optimates: Joe, Andres, Liana, and Zack

Populares: Douglas, Justin, Amy, and Caroline

Moderates: Sarah, Rick, and Benjamin