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ENGL 210: Ancient and Modern Superpowers

Section 007

3 February 2022

Roman Oral Presentation (ROP)

**Your task is to prepare and deliver a five (5) minute presentation on a topic from Ancient Roman culture and civilization. Your presentation must include a blend of spoken lecture and visual aid through images projected on the computer screen or through print handouts. Your presentation should discuss primary sources (that is, sources from classical antiquity) and it should include a works cited section.**

Potential Topics

Students may propose their own topics or else choose from the following list. Note that each student must have a unique topic. Students will select their topics on a first come, first served basis on the Moodle discussion forum for this assignment. While there is some inevitable overlap between Roman culture and Greek and Etruscan culture, presentations should focus on the Roman viewpoint as much as possible (for example, discussing the Roman way a particular god was honored instead of the way the Greeks did it).

*Technology*

Roman aqueducts Roman baths cloaca maxima

Hadrian’s Wall Via Appia and Roman roads

*Warfare*

Civil War of Caesar (49-45 BC) Punic Wars (3rd century BC) Social War (1st century BC)

*Politics*

aedile Catiline conspiracy (65-63 BC) censor (occupation)

consul cursus honorum praetor quaestor

Roman senate tribune of the plebs

*Religion*

augury floralia haruspicy interpretatio graeca

Janus lararium lemuria mos maiorum

Numa Pompilius numen saturnalia Vesta

vestal virgins

*Politicians and Emperors*

Augustus Caesar/Octavian Caligula Cato the Elder Cicero

Claudius Julius Caesar Nero Pompey the Great

Romulus and Remus Scipio Africanus

*Poets*

Apuleius Catullus Horace Juvenal Martial Ovid

Petronius

*Historians*

Livy Sallust Suetonius

*Rhetoricians*

Quintilian Tacitus

*Dramatists*

Plautus Terence

*Miscellaneous*

garum insula thermopolium Vesuvius eruption/Pompeii (79 AD)

Presentation delivery method

Students must present their work in class unless they have a documented medical excuse (such as COVID-19 quarantine) in which latter instance students may present their work remotely via Zoom. Whether presenting in person or through Zoom the requirements for the ROP are the same in that you must speak and use visual aids (a PowerPoint presentation with no audio is not acceptable). While presenting I will verbally tell each student when they have exceeded four (4) minutes, so they do not run past the allotted time for the ROP.

Presentation tips

It is important to not read *all* the text included in your images/slides. I would suggest writing down the most important information about the topic and supplementing that written information with your narration. The slides/images should have some writing, but the presentation should be a blend of writing, spoken word, and images. Students who are unable to discuss their topic for at least five (5) minutes (not including obviously pausing between words and sentences) will lose points for this assignment. To make sure your presentation contains 5 minutes of narration you should practice your presentation and time it. Students will not be penalized for having presentations longer than five (5) minutes but there is not enough time for these presentations to exceed ten (10) minutes.

Presentation requirements

Since each presentation must use visual aids, presentations can be in the following formats: PowerPoint, image slides, or handouts (including images).

Discussion of your topic should include context from original (that is, ancient) sources. One way to do this is to search an online repository of classical texts like the Perseus Digital Library from Tufts University (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>) or MIT’s Internet Classics Archive (<http://classics.mit.edu/Browse/>) for your topic.

Your presentation must include a properly formatted MLA style works cited section. You should include a parenthetical for any quotes, but you do not need to include a parenthetical for paraphrases.

Due dates

There will be a submission space for the ROP for you to upload your visual materials. ROP grades and comments will be posted in that space. There is no first draft for this assignment, but students are encouraged to practice their presentations verbally so that they have enough material to talk about for at least five (5) minutes.

Topic and time selection on Moodle discussion forum – 8 February 2022

Presentations – 8 and 10 March 2022 (All students should be prepared to present on 8 March 2022 even if they select 10 March 2022)