

HIST 4023 Roman Republic and Empire
Paper 2 - 10 pages
Due November 28 at 11:30 am

Livy's *From the Foundation of the City* (*Ab Urbe Condita*) is our most important source for the early history of Rome. But he was writing many hundreds of years after the events he covered in his first five books. In the first paper you explored how Livy was reworking his earlier sources to create his own history. For this paper, you will examine how Livy is writing his work for his own times, and how more recent events shaped his presentation of early Roman history.

For this paper you should focus on the [first book of Livy](#), which we read for class earlier in the semester. The exact date when Livy was writing this book is not precisely known, but for the purposes of this paper assume that Livy was working on it until 23 BCE. You should consult the major ancient sources for the period following following Caesar's death to provide context for Livy, namely [Cassius Dio Books 50-53](#), [Suetonius' Life of Augustus](#), and Augustus' own *Res Gestae*. Some questions you might want to consider:

- What events in the late 30s and early 20s might have influenced Livy's evaluation of Rome in the preface to Book 1?
- How can we understand Livy's Preface in its historical context? What kinds of views does he have about civil wars?
- What good and bad qualities in the Roman kings does Livy particularly emphasize, and how might they be relevant to Augustus?
- What qualities of the Roman character does Livy particularly emphasize? How might these fit into the new order that Augustus was creating?
- How does Livy try to connect the past with the present? What elements is he particularly interested in?
- How optimistic or pessimistic is Livy, and how might that be a reflection of the mood of the early 20s?
- How might the *Res Gestae* express the Augustan response to the conditions that shaped Livy's first book?

You are to limit your analysis to the ancient texts themselves – do not look at modern scholarship. I want to read what you have to say, not what someone else has to say.

Use direct quotes sparingly and when they will specifically illustrate the point you are trying to make. Otherwise, paraphrase. Whenever you are quoting, paraphrasing, or simply referring to something an author says cite the particular passage in your paper. Cite by book and chapter either in the sentence or parenthetically; e.g. "As Livy says at 1.23..." or "as described by Suetonius (23)". Don't forget to put a page number at the bottom of the page. Papers should be ten pages long, double-spaced, with 1" margins all around. Use Times New Roman or a similar font.

Papers are due on November 28 at the start of class. Electronic submissions will not be accepted except by prior arrangement or in emergencies. Late papers will not be accepted.