AHIS4140 - Classical Studies Honours I
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Jane Bellemore
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Email: Jane.Bellemore@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Open
Semester Semester 1 - 2007
Unit Weighting 20
Teaching Methods Seminar

Brief Course Description
This course is studied in conjunction with AHIS4150, AHIS4160, and AHIS4170. These courses exist for administrative purposes only, have no independent existence, and do not receive separate results. The four courses together constitute an Honours program in the history, society and literature of Greek and Roman antiquity. Knowledge of Greek and Latin is not essential, but may be useful. Those without such knowledge are encouraged to acquire some as part of their program. The major mode of delivery will be through small seminar-style classes.

Contact Hours Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for 12 Weeks

Texts See bibliography appended below

Course Objectives
1. In-depth understanding of aspects of ancient Greece and Rome, and of the methods of enhancing our knowledge of them.
2. Ability to understand, interpret and criticise complex ideas and texts.
3. Ability to research and interpret issues in a chosen discipline at nationally recognised levels of competence, and to present results with clarity and effectiveness, primarily in written form.
4. Preparation for work-place situations that require an exceptional level of literacy, analytical skills, and capacity to argue.
5. Preparation for high-level research into the classical world, or for other research employing similar skills.
6. Qualification for postgraduate research degrees in Ancient History and related areas.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 23rd January 2007
Course Content
The content of the ancient History programme is fixed each year by consultation between the staff and intending students. However, students are required to take four strands from the following options:
1. A short thesis of 8000 words on a topic to be arranged
2. A single full-year course in the Latin or Greek language at the level appropriate to the student’s previous language experience
3. One or more studies each in an aspect of ancient history
4. One or more studies each in an aspect of ancient literature, culture, or thought
NB: Students are also expected to attend the Discipline’s staff/student research seminars wherever possible. Attendance at some may be compulsory.

Assessment Items
| Essays / Written Assignments | Assessment is by three 2500-word research assignments or equivalent. |

Assumed Knowledge
An undergraduate major sequence in Ancient History or equivalent

Callaghan Campus Timetable
AHIS4140
CLASSICAL STUDIES HONOURS I
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 1 - 2007
Seminar Thursday 2:00 - 4:00  Historiography
Seminar - Shared with AHIS4150,60&7

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:
- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -
- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which
may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).

- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Written Assessment Items**

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

**Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:


Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

Contact Details
Faculty Student Service Offices

The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

Ourimbah Focus
Room: AB1.01 (Administration Building)
Phone: 02 4348 4030

The Dean of Students
Dr Michael Hanna ford
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Dr Bill Gladstone
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

End of CTS Entry
Studentmail and Blackboard: [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details:

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**
- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **Hand assignments to course co-ordinator**
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Special Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Remarks**
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)

**Return of Assignments**
Students can collect assignments from the course co-ordinator
Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use in-text referencing of ancient sources, and that you use footnotes (or endnotes) for modern sources. In footnotes, it is enough to use the surname of the modern authority, followed by a page number (e.g. Jones, 52), unless there is some ambiguity (e.g. Jones (1966) 52, Jones (1989) 21). Consistency and comprehensibility are the only criteria. At the end of the paper, however, provide a bibliography of all works cited, separating ancient from modern, and give full bibliographical listing of all works, including translators, etc. This section should appear on a separate page, headed ‘Bibliography’.

Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
# Course Programme

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<td>1.</td>
<td>22(^{nd}) Feb</td>
<td>1. The <em>Res Gestae</em> of Augustus and the Principate</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>1(^{st}) March</td>
<td>2. The virtues and vices of Tiberius</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>8(^{th}) March</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>22(^{nd}) March</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>29(^{th}) March</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td><strong>EASTER BREAK</strong> (Mon 9(^{th}) April – 23(^{rd}) April)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
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<td>14.</td>
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<td>NO CLASSES</td>
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<td><strong>Third essay due this week</strong></td>
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**Topic One (Week One)**

The *Res Gestae* of Augustus and the Principate

For this tutorial, you should focus on the first and last parts of Augustus’ work: *RG* 1-14 and 25-35. Briefly outline the historical incidents alluded to by Augustus.

Is it possible to determine the accuracy of the *Res Gestae*?

What does the work tell us of Augustus ‘the man’?

What is the purpose of the *Res Gestae*?

**Sources**


See also Dio Cassius, *Roman History*, books 53 and 54; Suetonius *Augustus*; Velleius Paterculus 2.59ff. These sources are available on-line through: [http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/home.html](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/home.html)

**Bibliography**

Bosworth, B. ‘Augustus, the *Res Gestae* and Hellenistic Theories of Apotheosis’, *JRS* 89 (1999) 1-18

Eck, W. *Augustus und seiner Zeit (The Age of Augustus)* Oxford, 2003 (937.07092 AUGU-2 ECK)

Lacey, W.K. Augustus and the principate: the evolution of the system, Leeds, 1996 (937.07092 AUGU-2 LACE)


Ramage, E.S. ‘The Date of Augustus’ *Res Gestae*, *Chiron* 18 (1988) 71-82

Ramage, E.S. *The nature and purpose of Augustus’ ”Res gestae”,* Stuttgart, 1987 (937.06/102)


Severy, B. *Augustus and the family at the birth of the Roman Empire*, New York, 2003 (937.07 SEVE)

Turpin, W. ‘*Res gestae* 34.1 and the Settlement of 27 B.C.’, *CQ* 44 (1994) 427


**Topic Two (Week Two)**

*The virtues and vices of Tiberius*

Read Suetonius *Tiberius* with particular reference to chapters 1-10.
What is Suetonius doing with this early material?
What effect does this have on the whole of his work?
How credible is Suetonius?

Has Suetonius influenced the later tradition about Tiberius, whether directly or indirectly?

**Sources**

Velleius Paterculus 2.94-9
Dio Cassius, *Roman History* 57.1-3

**Bibliography**

Baldwin, B. *Suetonius*, Amsterdam, 1983 (937.07092 SUET-2 BALD)
Levick, B.M. *Tiberius, the politician*, London, 1976
Lewis, R.G. *Suetonius’ ‘Caesares’ and their Literary Antecedents* ANRW 2.33.5 (1991) 3623-74
Lindsay, H.M. *Tiberius, Suetonius*, London, 1995
Lindsay, H.M. *‘Suetonius as ab epistulis to Hadrian and the Early History of the Imperial Correspondence’*, *Historia* 43 (1994) 454
Lounsbury, R. C. *The arts of Suetonius: an introduction*, New York, c1987 (878.7/6)
Severy, B. *Augustus and the family at the birth of the Roman Empire*, New York, 2003
Topic Three (Week Three)
Disaster of Varus

Investigate the so-called Disaster of Varus in AD 9.
Judge which source is most reliable, and indicate the criteria of reliability (or non-reliability)
Who was to blame for the disaster?
What impact did this event have on the emperor's military ambitions?

Sources

Velleius Paterculus 2.117-121
Suetonius Augustus 21, 23, Tiberius 17-19
Florus Epitome of Roman History 2.30
Dio Cassius 56.18-24

See also Tacitus Annals 1.3, 1.10, 1.43, 1.55, 1.60-2, 1.65, 1.71, 2.15, 2.41, 2.45-6, 12.27.

Bibliography

Syme, R. Augustan Aristocracy, Oxford, 1986 (937.06/103)
Syme, R. Roman Revolution, Oxford, 1939

Video recording: Lost legions of Varus
Consider these comments concerning Livia:

1. Role in the promotion of Tiberius: Tacitus *Annals* 1.3-4, 10, 13-4, cf. 2.42; Suetonius *Tiberius* 12, 14, 21, 26, cf. 50-1; Dio 56.31, 57.3, 12, cf. 58.2 (excerpt from Dio’s Roman History)

2. Role in the death of Augustus: Tacitus *Annals* 1.5 (see Goodyear’s commentary); Dio Cassius 56.30.1-2; cf. Suetonius *Augustus* 98-9, *Tiberius* 21; Dio 56.30

3. Role in the death of Agrippa Postumus: Tacitus *Annals* 1.6, Suetonius *Tiberius* 2; Dio 57.3, cf. 55.32.1-2

4. Hatred of Germanicus/Agrippina: Tacitus *Annals* 1.33, 2.43, cf. 5.2; Dio 57.18 (excerpts)

5. Livia’s obituary: Tacitus *Annals* 5.1; Dio 58.2; cf. Velleius Paterculus 2.130

Is such criticism of Livia valid?
Was this contemporary gossip or did it ‘come to light’ only later?
Are the charges being levelled at Livia alone?

In the case of the *Annals*, much of the criticism of Livia appears in the Book One. How would such material influence the reader?

**Bibliography**

Bartman, E. *Portraits of Livia: imaging the imperial woman in Augustan Rome*, Cambridge, 1999 (Q733.5 BART)
Severy, B. *Augustus and the family at the birth of the Roman Empire*, New York, 2003
Watson, P. *Ancient stepmothers: myth, misogyny, and reality*, Leiden, 1995 (880.09 WATS)
**Topic Five (Week Six)**

*Death of Germanicus and the case against Piso*

The death of Germanicus in October AD 19 led to the trial of Piso in the following year. Tacitus fully implicates Tiberius and Livia in the events leading to Germanicus’ death, as the masterminds of the affair (e.g. Ann. 2.43, 72, 77; 3.2-3, 16, 17).

Is there anything inherently wrong with Tacitus’ interpretation?

What charges were proven against Piso?

In what ways does the SCPP change Tacitus’ picture of the events of 19 and 20?

**Sources**

Tacitus *Annals*, esp. 2.41-3, 53-73, 82-3, 3.1-18 (See Woodman’s and Martin’s commentary on *Book Three of the Annals*)

Suetonius *Tiberius* 52, cf. 25

On the Senatus Consultum de Cn Pisone Patre, see M. Griffin, ‘The Senate’s Story’ *JRS* 87 (1997) 249-63

See also the special issue of *AJPh* dealing with the senatus consultum de Cn. Pisone patre, to be found at: [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_journal_of_philology/toc/ajp120.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_journal_of_philology/toc/ajp120.1.html)

On other relevant inscriptions, including the Tabula Sirensis, see M. Crawford (ed.) *Roman Statutes* (London, 1996) 507-47

**Bibliography**


Claessen, J.M. ‘Germanicus revisited -- or revised?’*, Akroterion* 41 (1996) 133-50


Severy, Beth ‘Family and State in the Early Imperial Monarchy: The Senatus Consultum de Pison Patre, Tabula Sirensis, and Tabula Hebana’, *CPH* 95.3 (2000) 318-


Watson, P.A. *Ancient Stepmothers* (Leiden, 1995)
Topic Six (Week Seven)
Tiberius and Sejanus

Outline the career of Sejanus.
Did Sejanus and Livia murder Drusus?
When and why did Sejanus gain so much influence with Tiberius? See esp. Velleius Paterculus 2.126-8
Did Tiberius ever intend to make Sejanus his successor?
Why did Tiberius engineer Sejanus’ downfall?
Did Sejanus intend to overthrow Tiberius?

Sources

Josephus Antiquities 18.181-2
Tacitus Annales Books 4 and 5; cf. 6.2, 3
Suetonius Tiberius 48, 52, 55, 61, 62, 65; Gaius 12, 30; Claud. 6, 57; Vitell. 2
Dio Books 57, 58

Fasti Ostienses for AD 31 (Braud 98)

Bibliography

Bauman, R.A., Impietas in Principem, München, 1974
Bodington, A. ‘Sejanus, whose conspiracy?’, AJPh 84 (1963) 1-16
Nichols, J. ‘Antonia and Sejanus,’ Hist. 24 (1975) 48-58
Pigon, J. ‘Tacitus on Galba and Sejanus: Two Textual Notes (Hist. I, 49, 2; Ann., IV, 12, 2)’, Latomus 60 (2001) 631-6
Purcell, N. ‘Livia and the Womanhood of Rome’ PCPhS 32 (1986) 78-105
Sinclair, P. ‘Tacitus’ presentation of Livia Iulis, wife of Tiberius’ son Drusus’, AJPh 111 (1990) 238-56
Sumner, G.V. ‘The family connections of L. Aelius Seianus’, Phoenix 19 (1965) 134-45
Topic Seven (Week Eight)

Gaius and the Jews

Did Caius really intend to set up a statue to himself as Zeus in the temple of Jerusalem?
If so, why did it take so long for any action to occur?
If not, where did the story come from?

Note in particular any discrepancies between Philo’s account and that by Josephus, then between the earlier account by Josephus (BJ) and the later Antiquities. Are such differences important?

Sources

Philo Legation to Gaius 186, 207-8
Josephus Jewish Antiquities esp. 18.257-309; Jewish Wars 2.185-7
Suetonius Gaius
Tacitus Hist. 5.9
Dio Book 59

Bibliography

Barrett, A.A.  ‘Claudius, Gaius and the Client Kings’, CQ 40 (1990) 284-6
Bilde, P.  ‘The Roman emperor Gaius (Caligula)’s attempt to erect his statue in the temple of Jerusalem’, Studia Theologica 32 (1978) 67-93
Hurley, D.W.  An historical and historiographical commentary on Suetonius’ Life of C. Caligula, Atlanta, Ga., c1993 (937.07092 SUET-2 HUR)
Lindsay, H.M.  Caligula, Suetonius, London, 1993 (878.01 SUET-1 CALI 1993)
Massaro, V. and Montgomery, I.  ‘Gaius — Mad, Bad, Ill, or all Three?’, Lat. 37 (1978) 894-909
Simpson, C.J.,  ‘Caligula’s cult: immolation, immortality, intent’, in Subject and Ruler, ed. A. Small, JRA supp. 17, 63-7
Smallwood, E.M.  ‘The chronology of Gaius’ attempt to desecrate the temple’, Lat. 16 (1957) 3-17
Wardle, D.  ‘Caligula and the Client Kings’, CQ 42.2 (1992) 437
Yavetz, Z.,  ‘Caligula, Imperial madness and modern historiography’, Klio 78 (1996) 105-29
See also:
Rutgers, L.V.  ‘Roman policy towards the Jews: expulsions from the city of Rome during the first century C.E.’, ClAnt 13 (1984) 56-74
Topic Eight (Week Nine)
Accession of Claudius

Who was involved in the assassination of Gaius? See Jos. AJ 19.66-9
Who, if any, were the potential heirs to Gaius? Was Claudius a serious contender?
Discuss problems with the accession of Claudius. Who opposed him and why? Was the ‘restoration of the Republic’ a realistic consideration?

Did Agrippa actually play the role assigned to him by Josephus?
What happened to those who had argued against Claudius and the principate?

In a contemporary satire about the death of Claudius (attributed to Seneca), Apocolocyntosis, the physical, mental and personal traits of Claudius are mocked mercilessly. See:
http://www.forumromanum.org/literature/apocolocyntosis.html

Sources
Josephus BJ 2.205-14; AJ, Book 19; see also Death of an Emperor, trans and commentary by T.P. Wiseman, Exeter, 1991
Suetonius Gaius, esp. 26 ff., Claudius esp. 1-14, 35
Dio Books 59.25.5b-30.1c, 60.1.1-6.9, 60.15.1-16.8

Bibliography
Green, C.M.C. ‘Claudius, Kingship, and Incest’, Latomus 57.4 (1998) 765-91
Griffin, M. ‘Claudius in Tacitus’, CQ 40 (1990) 482-501
Levick, B.M., Claudius, London, 1990
McAlindon, D. ‘Claudius and the Senators’, AJPh 78 (1957) 279-86
McAlindon, D. ‘Senatorial opposition to Claudius and Nero, AJPh 77 (1956) 113-32
Major, A. ‘Was he pushed or did he leap? Claudius’ ascent to power’, AH 22.1 (1992) 25-31
Mottershead, J. Suetonius, Claudius, Bristol, 1986 (937.07092 SUET-1 DIVU-1 1986)
Townend, G.B. ‘Claudius and the digressions in Tacitus’, RhM 105 (1962) 358-68
Discuss the veracity of Tacitus’ account of Messalina’s fall.
Consider the marriage to Silius. Did Messalina divorce Claudius? Was the marriage a signal for conspiracy?
Consider the role of the freedmen. Who was running the empire?
Consider also the portrayal by Juvenal which is similar to that of Pliny. Can we trust such depictions?

Sources

Tacitus Annals 11.1-12.1
Suetonius Claudius, esp. 17, 26, 27, 29, 36, 37, 39; cf. Vit. 2
Dio Cassius 60.14-16, 60.19 (also called Epitome of Book 61) 60.30-31
Pliny NH 10.172, 29.8
Juvenal, Satires 6.114-33, 10.329-45, 14.329-31
See also: Seneca Apocolocyntosis 11-13; Josephus Antiquities of the Jews 20.149

Bibliography

Barrett, A.A. Agrippina: sex, power and politics, London, 1999
Bauman, R.A. Impietas in Principem, München, 1974
Ehrhardt C. ‘Messalina and the succession to Claudius’, Antichthon 12 (1978) 51-78
Levick, B.M. Claudius, London, 1990
Treggiari, S. Roman freedmen during the late Republic, Oxford, 1969 (937.05 TREG)
Topic Ten (Week Eleven)
Agrippina and Nero

How has Tacitus presented the political power of Agrippina at the start of Nero’s reign?
Was she as powerful as Tacitus believes?
Why did Nero murder Agrippina? Did she die in the way depicted by Tacitus?
What was the role of Seneca and Burrus in Agrippina’s death?
Why did the assassination cause little trouble in political circles in Rome?

Sources
Tacitus Annals 12.1-14.13
Suetonius Nero esp. 28, 34, 39
Dio Cassius (Epitome of Book 61, 62)

Bibliography

Barrett, A.A. Agrrippina, London, 1996
Bauman, R.A. Impieties in Principe, München, 1974
Katzoff, R., ‘Where Was Agrippina Murdered?’, Historia 22 (1973) 72-8
Mc Dermott, W.C.  ‘Sextus Afranius Burrus’, Latomus 6 (1949) 229-54
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Examine Tacitus’ account of the Conspiracy of Piso.
What are the major themes in Tacitus’ account?
What does the conspiracy suggest about the level of disaffection with Nero’s regime?
Did the conspiracy lead to Nero’s overthrow?

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Topic Twelve (Week Thirteen)

Jewish Revolt

What were the events leading up to the outbreak of war?
Consider the prosecution of the war.
What plans did the Jews have?
What did the Romans do?
How reliable is the account by Josephus?

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