



TEACH YOURSELF CLASSICS
AFFORDABLE RESOURCES FOR STUDYING ANTIQUITY

LITERARY CLASSICS OF THE ROMAN WORLD: THE AGE OF AUGUSTUS

Description:

This topic guide is friendly to beginners but open to philosophical level discussion. It's an introduction to the age of Augustus (b. 63 B.C.E.), the first Roman emperor. Adopted by Julius Caesar in his will, he took control of a collapsing republic and ruled for a period of over 40 years, until his death in 14 C.E.; his reign brought about a transformation of all facets of Roman society and altered the course of Western civilization in the process.

The course materials will be the art and literature of the late Republic and early Empire, including many of the masterpieces of what is considered the "golden age" of Latin literature such as Virgil's *Aeneid* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. We will also see how the visual iconography of the period reflected and promoted the new regime. Throughout the course we will strive to situate this art and literature in its historical context, and we will also examine some of the foundations to and transformations of the Augustan age.

Course Goals:

- situate art and literature in its historical context
- examine how the reign of Augustus transformed Western civilization

Recommended Books:

[The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus](#), by Paul **Zanker** (University of Michigan Press, 1990).

Ovid: [Amores](#)

Vergil: [The Aeneid](#)

Ovid: [Metamorphoses](#)

[Augustan Rome](#) (Classical World), by Andrew **Wallace-Hadrill** (Bristol Classical Press, 1998).

Part 1: The Rise of Octavian

The rise and fall of Julius Caesar

r: Wallace-Hadrill; Zanker 1-31

Catullus

r: Wallace-Hadrill; Zanker 33-43, Selections from [Catullus](#)

Antony vs. Octavian

r: Zanker 44-65. [Propertius](#) 4.6

Virgil's Eclogues and Georgics

r: Virgil's [Eclogues and Georgics](#)

Part 2: The Birth of Augustus

A new republic: The birth of 'Augustus'

r: Zanker 72-77, 89-100

Virgil's Aeneid

r: Aeneid

Horace's Odes

r: Horace's [Odes](#)

Part 3: Pater Patriae

Roman art; The “Augustan” style

r: Zanker 230-263

The Family in the Age of Augustus

r: Zanker 167-83

Roman elegy

r: Ovid Amores 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.9, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.7, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 3.14

Ovid’s Art of Love

r: [Art of Love](#) & [Remedia Amoris](#)

Ovid’s Metamorphoses

r: Metamorphoses

“The Things I Did”: Augustus’ Res Gestae

r: Augustus’ [Res Gestae](#)