Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes:
This course is a graduate research seminar designed to formulate professional research and writing skills for academic historians. The ultimate goal is for students to produce a research paper suitable for publication in a scholarly journal. Our topic is one of pivotal importance for Roman and world history. In our readings and discussions we will examine Roman society and politics during the first century. Our goal is to gain an understanding of how the Roman monarchy functioned by examining the careers of the emperors of the Julio-Claudian and Flavian dynasties. Students should come away with a grasp of:

1. How the Roman Imperial government operated.
2. The biographies of the Julio-Claudian and Flavian emperors.
3. How history was written in the Roman world.
4. How to conduct research in classical history.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:
The main requirement of the course is the production of a research paper (10-15 pages including footnotes) on a relevant topic of your choice. It will constitute 50% of the course grade. The remaining 50% of your grade will consist of four short (3 page) reaction papers (40%) and class participation (10%). Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. Late papers will not be accepted.

Required Books:

Suggested:
Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th Ed.)

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments (subject to change with prior notification):

May 20 Course Introduction

May 27 **Augustus**
Alston, chs. 1, 2, 13, and 14
Tacitus, *Annals*, 1 (pages 3-49)
Suetonius, *Augustus* (pages 45-107)
June 3  
**Tiberius, Gaius (Caligula), and Claudius**  
Alston, chapters 3-5  
Suetonius, *Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius* (pages 108-213)  
Tacitus, *Annals*, II-VI, XI-XII (pages 50-263)  
**First Reaction Paper Due**

June 10  
**The Reign of Nero; the Early Christian Church**  
Alston, chapter 6  
Suetonius, *Nero* (pages 213-248)  
Tacitus, *Annals*, XIII-XVI (pages 264-387)  
**Second Reaction Paper Due**

June 17  
**The Year of Four Emperors**  
Alston, chapter 7  
Suetonius, *Galba, Otho, Vitellius*  
Tacitus, *History*, I-V (pages 391-626)  
**Third Reaction Paper Due**

June 24  
**The Flavian Dynasty; Social, Economic and Cultural Life**  
Alston, chapters 8, 9, 11, 12, 15-17  
Suetonius, *Vespasian, Titus, Domitian* (pages 281-319)  
*Letters of Pliny to Tacitus* (handout)  
**Fourth Reaction Paper Due**

July 1  
**no meeting; Submission of Proposals (via email)**

July 8  
**no meeting**

July 15  
**no meeting**

July 22  
**First Drafts Due**

July 29  
**Individual Consultations**

July 31  
**Individual Consultations**

Aug. 5  
**Presentations**

Aug. 7  
**Presentations (all final drafts due)**