Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes:
This course is a graduate reading seminar designed to familiarize students with the major topics and controversies regarding the history of the Roman Empire. Commencing with an overview of Augustus' establishment of autocratic rule, we will analyze how the autocracy was maintained, how ordinary Romans lived, and how the empire was converted to Christianity.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:
Your grade will be based on four book reviews, each of which counts for 25% of the final course grade. Reviews should be approximately four pages in length and should address the book’s thesis, perspective, methodology and evidence. Attendance and participation at all class meetings are mandatory. No late papers will be accepted.

Required Books:
Chester Starr, *The Roman Empire: a Study in Survival*
Werner, *The Age of Augustus, 2nd edition*
Robert Knapp, *Invisible Romans*
Ramsay MacMullen, *Christianizing the Roman Empire*
Pat Southern, *The Roman Empire from Severus to Constantine*

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments:
Monday, June 9 – Introductory Meeting

Thursday, June 12 – Discussion of Starr


Thursday, June 19 – Discussion of Eck; First Book Review Due

Monday, June 23 – Discussion of Keith Hopkins, “Novel Evidence for
Roman Slavery,” *Past & Present* 138 (Feb., 1993) 3-27 (JSTOR)

Thursday, June 26 – Discussion of Knapp; Second Book Review Due


Thursday, July 3 – Discussion of MacMullen; Third Book Review Due


Thursday, July 10 – Discussion of Southern; Fourth Book Review Due