Roman Civilization (CLAS 271)

Asynchronous online    Core curriculum (humanities)

Summer 2023 (5/15-6/11) and Fall 2023

Dr. David M. Johnson

How did the Romans build their empire? Why did it eventually fall? And why does it matter?

We’ll study what the Romans wrote (histories, speeches, poems, and more) and what they made (statues, roads, theaters, and more).

We’ll bring things to life with historical role-playing games. You play leading Romans. Should we avenge the death of Julius Caesar? Should we burn the unfinished *Aeneid*, the greatest Latin poem ever written, as its dying author wanted? Should Rome persecute the Christians for refusing to worship the emperor? Finally a contemporary twist: should SIU teach the raunchiest Roman novel, Petronius’ *Satyricon*?

Questions? mjohnson@siu.edu