

# The Roman Empire

A NEW SUBJECT FOR THE INTELLIGENT AND LIVELY MINDED MEMBERS OF U3A



**The Roman Empire:** something we are all familiar with – gladiators, mad emperors, violence, warfare, Christians to the lions, and imperialism - right? But have you ever thought about how it worked and developed to be the biggest and most powerful empire the world had known? Such an organisation cannot exist and develop just on the basis of belligerence. It was not just Russel Crow and Ben-Hur, the civilisation had culture, science, politics (lots of that), music, literature and a whole new way of bringing culture to the uncultured. Have you ever wanted to know how such a civilisation grew and how it had such a crucial impact on modern western ideas, government, and culture? Who were Cato, Livy, Pliny, Sulla, Gracchus, and Pompey? What really went on in the senate with Julius Caesar, and what were the Punic Wars?

The Nuneaton and Bedworth U3A are providing a course of talks and discussion group to explore these subjects. The course will start at the formation of the first city of Rome and progress chronologically and will finish with the final elimination of the Roman Empire in AD 1400.

There will be formal and semi-formal talks, some readings of the ancient authors, information on the archaeology of the region, a modern travelogue of the sites that still exist, and discussions on the influence of Roman culture on modern day issues.

We hope to look at

- The rise of Rome from a simple village
- The development of the Republic and the politics of Ancient Rome
- The growth of Rome to its dominance in Italy
- Its struggle with Carthage
- Its version of literature and the performance arts
- The dominance with its neighbours and the start of the growth of its Empire
- The reasons for the advent of the Emperors
- The slow fall of Rome and its ultimate collapse



No experience or prior knowledge is required just interest, enthusiasm, and a lively and enquiring mind. Although there will be formal talks, participants (if they want to) will be encouraged to do independent study and thus contribute to group discussions. The structure is not fixed and we will be able to develop the group in the direction of interest of the members.

If you are interested please contact me below and I will be pleased to hear record your interest and can, in the first instance, send you written details on the currently proposed structure of the course.

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