

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the history of Rome from the Etruscans who dominated northern Italy before the founding of the city in the eighth century BC down to the collapse of Roman imperial authority in Western Europe during the fifth century AD. The course adopts a traditional focus, on political, social, and military affairs, and is organized chronologically around the traditional divisions of Roman history. The objective of the course is to present the students a thorough analysis of the forces that shaped Rome, the way in which she assembled her empire, the means by which she ruled and defended it, and the processes which led to its ultimate disintegration.