Chapter Four: Rome

The Importance of Rome

- Cultural achievements
- Assimilation of influences
- Role of music
- Historical division:
  - Monarchy/ Etruscan Age (700-89 B.C.E.)
  - Republican Rome (509-27 B.C.E.)
  - Imperial Rome (27 B.C.E. - C.E. 337)
Etruscan Art

- Etruscan control
  - Urban centers, engineering
  - Social, leisure activities
  - Trade, expansion

Etruscan Art

- Primitive but sophisticated, natural focus
- Value emotion over intellectual appeal

4.6 Capitoline She-Wolf.
- c. 500–480 BCE.
- Bronze, 2' 7½" (80 cm)
- high, 4' 4" (1.32 m)
- long.
- Musei Capitolini, Rome.
- Balthasar Burkhardt
- Scala/Art Resource, NY

4.2 Apollo of Veii, ca. 510–500 BCE.
- From the roof of the
- Portunacchio Temple, Veii, Italy.
- Painted terra cotta, 6' (175 cm)
- high.
Republican Rome (509-27 B.C.E.)

- New government
  - Consuls, Senate, Patricians/Plebeians
- Political equality / Balance of Power
  - Hortensian Law
- Increasing power / expansion
- Social and political unrest → civil war
Republican Literature

- Ennius (239–169 B.C.E.)
  - *Annals*
  - Tragedies adapted from Greek models
- Plautus (254–184 B.C.E.) and Terence (185–159 B.C.E.)
  - Roman adaptations of Greek comedies
- Catullus (80–54 B.C.E.)
  - Roman lyric poetry
  - Influenced by Sappho

Roman Philosophy

**Epicureanism**

- Founded by Epicurus (341–271 B.C.E.)
- Extolled by Lucretius (99–55 B.C.E.)
  - Intellectual and rational vs. self-indulgent
  - *On the Nature of Things*
- Gods play no part in human affairs
- Pleasure and calm composure

**Stoicism**

- World governed by Reason
- Role of Divine Providence
- Roman Stoics
  - Seneca
  - Epictetus
  - Marcus Aurelius
Roman Philosophy

Neoplatonism

- Plotinus
  - Enneads
  - Concept of the One as in Plato’s Timaeus
  - The soul
  - Influence on Christian thinkers, Islamic scholars, and Jewish philosophers

Roman Law

- Julius Caesar’s Ius Civile
- Law of the Twelve Tablets
- Justinian’s Corpus Iuris Civilis
- Roman science of law
  - Legal experts
  - Natural justice

Roman Religion

- A multitude of gods bequeathed by numerous cultures
- The Sibylline Books
- Household gods
- Usually tolerant of local religions
- The afterlife
Republican Art and Architecture

- Roman portraiture
  - Realistic details
  - Express outer appearance and inner character
  - Propagandistic
- Architecture as political medium
  - Public buildings for glory of leaders

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4.13 Bust of Cicero, 1st century BCE. Marble, 36 1/2" (93 cm). Museo Capitolino, Rome, Italy.

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Imperial Rome
(31 B.C.E. - C.E. 476)

- Julius Caesar assassinated 44 B.C.E.
- Battle of Actium (31 B.C.E.)
  - Octavian vs. Mark Antony
- Octavian inaugurated as Augustus (27 B.C.E.)
- Vast, multiethnic empire
- Emperor, bureaucracy, civil service
- Roman army
Evidence of Pompeii

- Vesuvius: August 24, C.E. 79
- Pliny the Younger
- Preservation of ordinary Pompeian life
  - Buildings
  - Domestic ornaments
  - Food

Imperial Literature: Virgil

- Roman art promoted Augustan worldview
  - Official, public, served state purposes
- Virgil’s *Aeneid*
  - Tribute to Rome and Augustus
  - National epic of Rome
  - Human destiny and personal responsibility

Imperial Literature

- Sulpica
- Horace
- Juvenal (C.E. 60-130)
  - Satirical poet (sixteen *Satires*)
  - Biting sarcasm
  - Misogyny
- Ovid
Augustan Sculpture

- *Ara Pacis*
  - Characteristics of Vergil’s poetry
  - Political and social message
  - Dedicated to the spirit of Peace
  - Celebrates the abundance of nature

- *Augustus of Prima Porta*
  - Victory over Parthians
  - National pride

Imperial Architecture

- Triumphal arches, internal arches, vaults
  - Invention of concrete
  - Barrel Vault
  - Dome (hemispherical vault)

- Hadrian’s Pantheon and imperial fora
  - Dome, oculus

- Engineering Achievements
  - Aqueducts (Pont du Gard)
  - Covered sewers
The End of the Roman Empire
- Gradual decline and political disunity
  - Insufficient army / use of mercenary troops
  - Increased taxes, decreased value of money
  - Impossibility of trade
- Emperor Diocletian (284-305)
- Emperor Constantine (306-337)

Late Roman Art and Architecture
- Last great Roman Imperial buildings
  - Basilica Nova
- Abandonment of Classical ideals
  - Role of Christianity

Chapter 4: Discussion Questions
- In what ways did the vast acquisition of land affect the Roman Republic? Consider the social, political, and economic implications.
- Discuss the absence of original literature and visual art in Republican Rome. What elements prevented the creation of new artistic expression? What were the priorities of the Republican culture?
- How did Imperial Rome allow for socio-economic mobility and create a "middle-class"? What was the effect of this on the imperial government? Explain.
- Explain the propagandistic value of Vergil’s Aeneid. In what ways does it support both the reign of Augustus and the superiority of the Roman Empire?