



Chapter 6

Roman World Empire



Wayne E. Sirmon

HI 103 – World History

HI-101 Western Civilization I

Sept. 15 On-Line Quiz (Ch. 6)

Sept. 16 Proof of Voter Registration

Extra Credit

Sept. 22 On-Line Quiz (Ch. 7)

Sept. 23 Article 2 - Approved

Extra Credit

Oct. 2-5 The Book of Will (UM)

Oct. 28 Stallworth Lecture (USA)

Extra Credit

Extra Credit

The BOOK of Will



Lonnie & Lynne Burnett ***Event Center***

October 2, 3, 4 @ 7:00 pm

October 5 @ 3:00 pm

(Ticket price will be reimbursed after completing review assignment.)

The *Book of Will* by Lauren Gunderson is a play that is set in 1623, after the tragic death of William Shakespeare.

His closest friends and fellow actors deeply miss him and his beautiful plays. When a pirated, badly botched Hamlet ("To be or not to be, there's the point . . .") plays on a nearby stage, they realize Shakespeare's lines are disappearing into the forgetful memory of time. What they need is a book—a definitive copy of his original plays, but to make one, they'll have to battle an unscrupulous publisher, a boozy poet laureate and their own mortality. Lauren Gunderson's look at Shakespeare's First Folio is a lively, funny, poignant love letter to theatre and the printed word.

Extra Credit

**University of South Alabama
Department of History**

2025

Stallworth Lecture

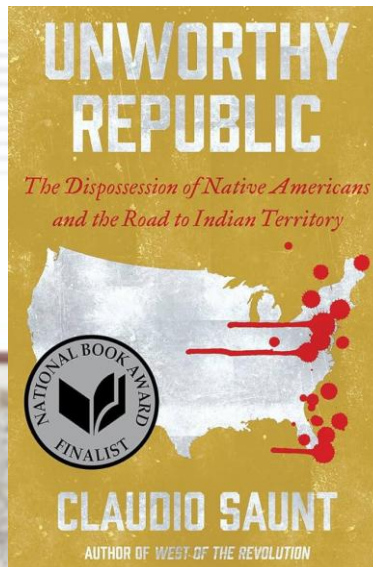


***Tuesday, October 28
7:00 p.m.***

Laidlaw Performing Arts Center

Claudio Saunt

**Professor of American History
University of Georgia**



Claudio Saunt is a Richard B. Russell Professor in American History at the University of Georgia, Athens. He additionally serves as the associate director of the Institute of Native American Studies. *Unworthy Republic* (2020) provides a multilayered account of the expulsions of Native Americans from their homes in the eastern United States to territories west of the Mississippi.

The Empire at its Height

Octavian

Father dies when 4. Then raised by Caesar's sister (G-Mother) until 12.

Joined Caesar's staff at age 17. Added to Caesar's will to be adopted and be heir. (Octavius did not know.)

Age 19 when Caesar is assassinated.



The Empire at its Height

Octavian/Augustus

2nd Triumvirate (Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus)

Liberators' civil war: 43-42 BC

Bellum Siculum: 42-36 BC

(Sextus Pompey, son of Pompey)

War of Actium: 32–30 BC

(Final War of the Roman Republic, Mark Antony)

16 January 27 BC

Imperator Caesar divi filius

Commander Caesar son of the deified one



The murder of Caesar



Amnesty

But...

Revenge

THE IDES OF MARCH

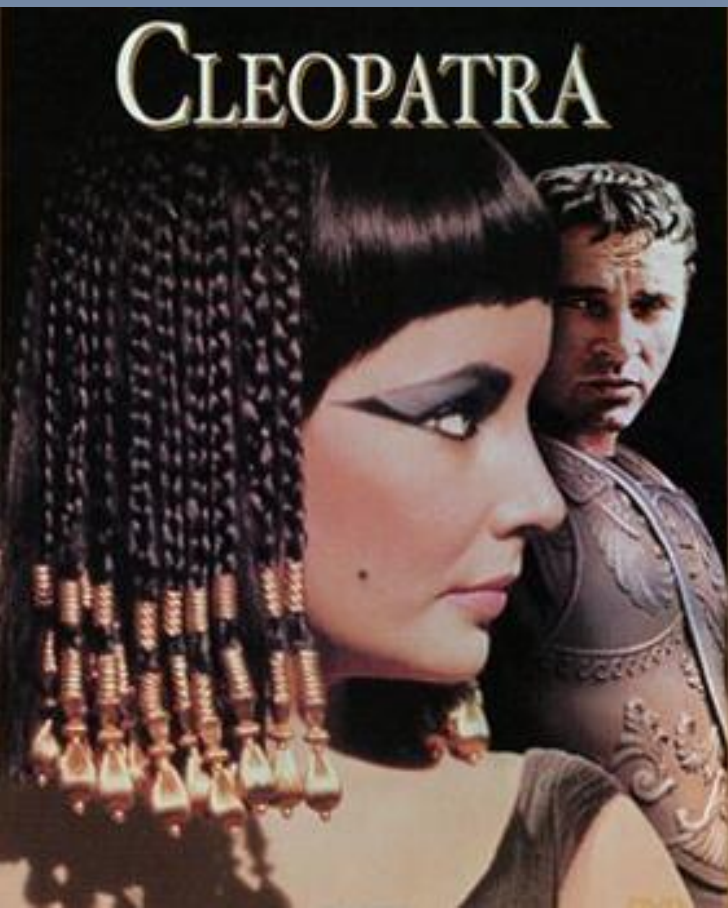
Beware them.

March 15, 44 BC

Octavian vs. Antony

Mark Antony needs cash...

and Cleopatra is loaded



Octavian vs. Antony

*Mark Antony needs cash...
and Cleopatra is loaded*

**Julius Caesar's mistress
(21 vs. 52)
(son)**

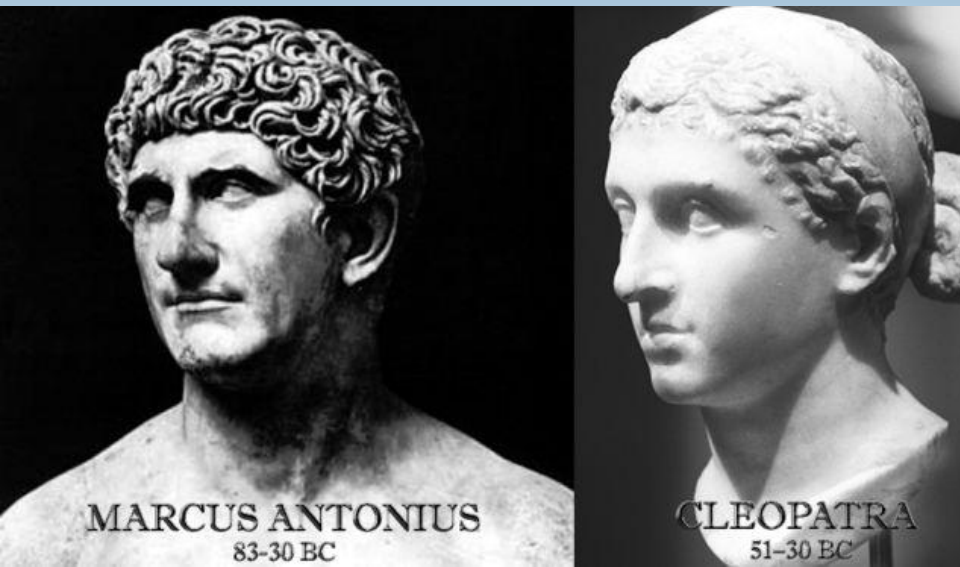


Octavian vs. Antony

*Mark Antony needs cash...
and Cleopatra is loaded*

**Julius Caesar's mistress
(21 vs. 52)
(son)**

**Antony's mistress (28 vs. 42)
(twins + one)**



Octavian vs. Antony

*Mark Antony needs cash...
and Cleopatra is loaded*

Caesar's mistress (21 vs. 52)
(son)

Antony's mistress (28 vs. 42)
(twins + one)

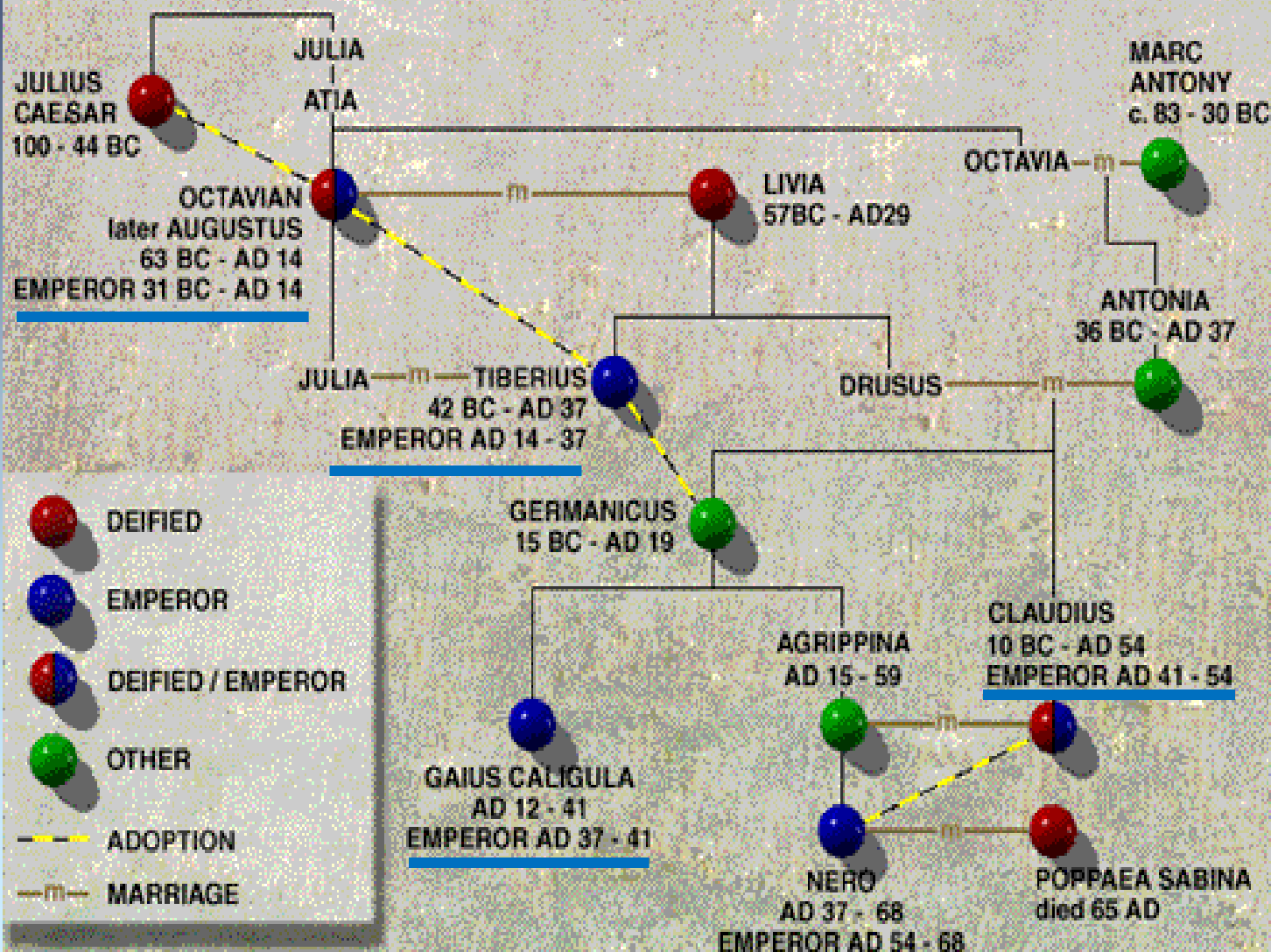
Actium
(naval battle, 31 BC)

All or Nothing
(snake or poison)



The Empire at its Height

SIMPLIFIED FAMILY TREE OF THE JULIO - CLAUDIAN EMPERORS



Augustus

Caesar's sister's g-son

Tiberius

Augustus' step-son

Caligula

Caesar's g-grandson

Claudius

Caesar's great-nephew

Nero

Caesar's g-g-grandson

The Empire at its Height

Caesar Augustus

Emperor 43 years: 27 BC – 14 AD

Maintained façade of the free Republic

Enlarged Empire

Created a Standing Army

Network of Roads

Reformed Tax system

Senatus Populus Que Romanus
Senate and the People of Rome



The Empire at its Height

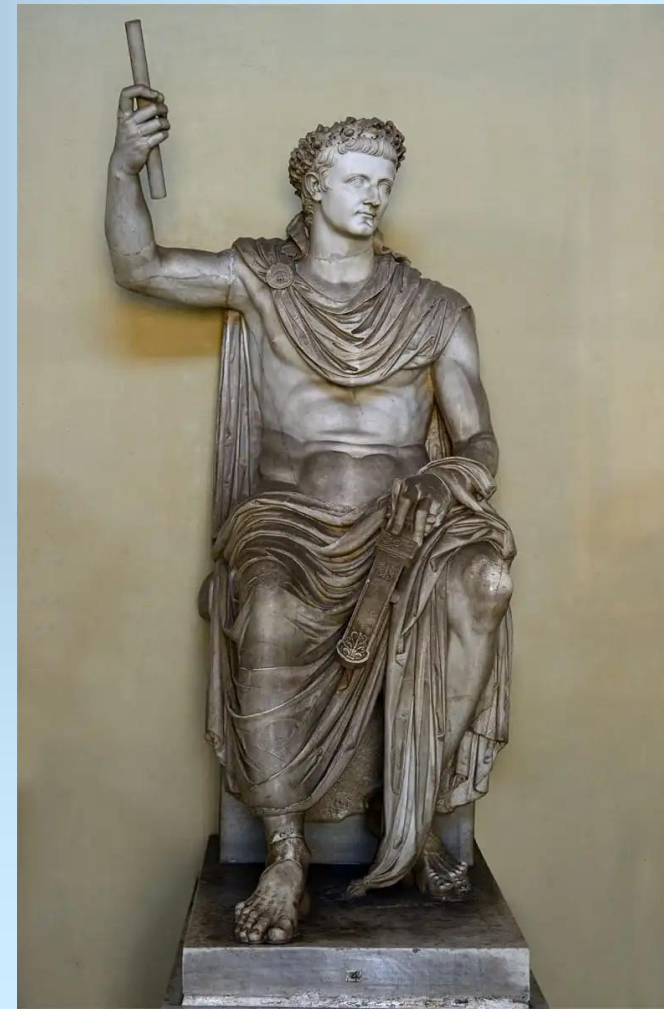
Tiberius

Emperor 14-37 AD

**Was the 5th string choice of Augustus.
G-sons Gaius and Lucius
General Agrippa, nephew Marcellus**

**By Augustus' death in 37 AD, all 4 had
already died.**

**To get step-son Tiberius even on the
bench, he was forced to divorce his wife
and marry Julia, Agrippa's widow and
daughter of Augustus.**



The Empire at its Height

Tiberius

Emperor 14-37 AD

As emperor, Tiberius was a solid administrator. However in his 8th year he shared authority with his son Drusus, but within a year Drusus died in mysterious circumstances.

In 26 AD Tiberius withdrew from Rome and most of his duties were handled by the Praetorian Prefect, Sejanus.

In 31 AD Sejanus was discovered plotting to overthrow the emperor and was tried and executed within the week.



The Empire at its Height

Caligula

Emperor 37-41 AD

Father died when Caligula 7. Mother and 1 brother banished.

He spent teen years with G-Grandmother, who died. Then lived with grandmother while 2 brothers die.

Caligula lived with Emperor Tiberius for 6 years and was named joint heir.

At age 25 becomes emperor and starts out spending perhaps a 4 billion dollars on building projects and cash for praetorian guards and ordinary citizens of Rome.



The Empire at its Height

Caligula

Emperor 37-41 AD

In 1 year blows cash surplus built up by Tiberius. In an effort to increase income he taxes lawsuits, weddings and prostitution.

He grows more violent, and out of touch with reality, planning to move to Alexandria where he hoped to be worshipped as a living god. He is described as an insane emperor who was self-absorbed and short-tempered.

A conspiracy of officers of the Praetorian Guard and senators assassinated him with the false hope of restoring the Roman Republic.



The Empire at its Height

Claudius

Emperor 41-54 AD

Caligula's uncle

Pardons assassins of Caligula

Adopted the name "Caesar"

Expands empire (4 legions to Britain)

Aqueducts, canals, roads

Several failed coups

successfully poisoned (4th wife)



The Empire at its Height

Nero

Emperor – 54-68 AD

Took power at 16

Overbearing mom – Agrippina
Planned shipwreck then “suicide”

Fire in 64 – Christian scapegoats

Senate declares “Public Enemy”
Chose suicide over assassination



The Empire at its Height

The Five Good Emperors

the Roman Empire was governed by absolute power, under the guidance of wisdom and virtue

Nerva	96 – 98
Trajan	98 – 117
Hadrian	117 – 138
Antoninus Pius	138 – 161
Marcus Aurelius	161 - 180

(last 4 Adoptive Sons)



“Bread and Circuses”

Cheap food and entertainment as an effective way to rise to power.

Erosion of civic duty.



Next Up... Rome- East & West

