

Fall 2024  
2:00 – 4:00 pm

**Rome's Darkest Hour: The War with Hannibal**

Prof. Philip Waddell  
215 Learning Services Bldg  
waddell@arizona.edu

**FACULTY BIO:**

Philip Waddell is an Associate Professor of Classics, whose work in ancient historiography concerns the construction of narrative within the historical texts of Greek and Roman authors. Most recently, he published the monograph *Tacitean Visual Narrative* with Bloomsbury, and is currently working on a commentary of book 21 of Livy's *Roman History*.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Livy: *Hannibal's War*, transl. J.C. Yardley (Oxford World's Classics, 2009)  
ISBN: 978-0199555970

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

Polybius: *The Rise of the Roman Empire*, transl. Ian Scott-Kilvert (Penguin, 1980)  
ISBN: 978-0140443622

Plutarch: *The Makers of Rome*, transl. Ian Scott-Kilvert (Penguin, 1965)  
ISBN: 978-0140441581

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, the class will examine what the Romans themselves considered their darkest hour: the war with Hannibal Barca. The course will be based on close readings from the ancient sources in translation. We will begin well before the conflict arose, showing the multiples causes for the war, and we will end after the war itself was completed, looking at how this war changed the history of the Mediterranean. While looking at this fascinating period of ancient history, we will consider not only the major battles, but also the cultures of both Rome and Carthage, as well as the fascinating people and events that shaped this nearly twenty-year conflict that threatened Rome's very survival.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Please note that the information on this syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the unforeseen demands of the semester. Texts marked with "\*" indicate that these will be provided online.

Week 1 (**Oct 3**): MEET THE ROMANS  
Polybius 6 (sel.)\*

Week 2 (**Oct 10**): MEET THE CARTHAGINIANS  
Aristotle's *Politics* (sel.)\*  
Hoyos (sel.)\*

Week 3 (**Oct 17**): REASONS, CAUSES, and CONTEXTS

Livy 21 (sel.)  
Polybius 1-2, 3 (sel.)\*  
Nepos, *Hamilcar*\*  
Nepos, *Hannibal*\*

Week 4 (**Wednesday, Oct 23**): ALPS, ELEPHANTS, and FIRST BATTLES

Livy 21-22 (sel.)  
Polybius 3 (sel.)\*  
Plutarch's *Fabius*\*

Week 5 (**Oct 31**): CANNAE and AFTERMATH

Livy 22-23 (sel.)  
Polybius 3 (sel.)\*

Week 6 (**Nov 7**): CONFLICT SPREADS

Livy 24 (sel.)  
Polybius 5, 7, 8, 9 (sel.)\*  
Cicero *In Verrem* II (sel.) II.4.52.115-55.123\*  
Plutarch's *Marcellus* (sel.)\*

Week 7 (**Nov 14**): HANNIBAL AD PORTAS!

Livy 25-26 (sel.)  
Polybius 9 (sel.)\*  
Cicero *de Oratore* I.49\*

Week 8 (**Nov 21**): SPAIN and HANNIBAL'S LAST GAMBIT

Livy 26-27 (sel.)  
Polybius 10, 11 (sel.)\*

Week 9 (**Dec 5**): AFRICA

Livy 28-29, 30 (sel.)  
Polybius 14, 15 (sel.)\*

Week 10 (**Dec 12**): ENDINGS and NEW BEGINNINGS

Polybius 16, 23 (sel.)\*  
Livy 35.14\*  
Plutarch, *Cato Maior* (sel.)\*  
Appian *Punica* (sel.)\*  
Juvenal 10\*  
Cicero *Att.* 7.11\*