The expansion of Rome’s sphere of influence to the east brought it into open competition with the Parthian Empire, which spanned from Arabia and the Caspian Sea to India. Judaea – an independent Jewish kingdom from 160 to 63 BC – soon came under Roman control, as a client kingdom, eventually becoming a Roman province (6 AD). During the semester, the class will examine the sources of Roman power in the East, as well as the military clashes that shaped Rome’s administrative expansion into the Near East, focusing primarily on Judaea and the two Jewish Revolts (66 AD and 132 AD). Similarly, the class will examine the consequences of Rome’s Jewish Wars for the Roman eastern front with the Parthians, and for Jews and Christians in Judaea/Palestina and throughout Empire.

Students are expected to perform all reading assignments and attend all classes. Course books are available at the book store and online (half.com, bestbookbuys.com etc.). During the course of the semester, students will submit two mid-term exams as well as a final exam (if a student cannot attend an exam, he/she should contact me in advance in order to arrange a make up exam). I grade on a scale of 0 to 100, assigning letter grades in the following fashion: A (96-100), A- (90-95), B+ (86-89), B (83-85), B- (80-82), C+ (76-79), C (73-75), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59). In grading the writing assignments, I will pay close attention to both substance and form (grammar, spelling, and clarity). In evaluating substance, I will examine whether the author has demonstrated a critical, historical understanding of the material, and whether he/she has presented and substantiated a thesis (a historical argument). In order to compute the final course grade, I will add the relative values of each student’s number grades for the two mid-terms (30% each) and the final examination (40%).

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information
see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

**Texts:**
- Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero*.
- *Joephus Flavius, The Jewish War* (handout)
- Plutarch, *Lives* (handout)

**Recommended readings:**

**Schedule:**

**Week 1:** Judaea and the Jews, from antiquity to the classical era

**Week 2:** Roman Expansion in Italy
- The republican era
- Roman armies
- The Pyrrhic War

**Week 3:** Roman Warfare
- The First Punic War
- The War at Sea
- Attrition

**Week 4:** The Republican Empire
- The Gallic Scare
- The Second Punic War
- The quest for decisive battles

**Week 5:** The Eastern Problem
- Philhellenism and the Second Macedonian War
- The Seleucid Empire
- Pergamum and Asia Minor
- Post-war arrangements in Greece and Asia Minor

**Week 6:** Pompey and Judaea
- The Provincial System
- Roman Imperialism, Senatorial decline and the rise of Pompey the Great
- The Third Punic War
- The Mithridatic Wars
- Armenia and Parthia
Week 7: The Augustan Principate: Consolidating Roman Power in the East
   Pompey’s eastern settlement
   Crassus, Antony and the Parthian wars
   The Augustan Settlement

    Thurs. Feb. 27: First mid-term exam (on Scullard, imperial map and classroom material)

Week 8: Rome’s Parthian Front Under Nero
   Nero’s eastern policy
   The Armenian Wars
   The Roman Near East under Vespasian

Week 9: The Great Revolt of AD 66: Challenging Roman Rule
   Herod the Great
   Long and short term causes of rebellion
   Josephus and the collapse of the revolt in the Galilee (Gamla, Yodephat)
   The Siege of Jerusalem
   Massada

Week 10: The Collapse of the Great Revolt: The Empire Strikes Back
   The Year of the Four Emperors
   The Siege of Jerusalem
   Massada

Week 11: The Bar Kokhba Revolt (AD 132): Hope and Success
   The Jewish Tax
   The Diaspora Revolts

    Thurs. March 27: Second mid-term (due Tue. April 1)

Week 12: The Bar Kokhba Revolt: Defeat and Despair
   Aelia Capitolina
   Julius Severus and the counter-insurgency campaign
   From Bar-Kokhba to Bar-Koziva

Week 13-14: Palaestina and the Roman East
   Romanization

    Tue. May 6th (10:30-12:30): Final exam