

Roman Civilization

20: *Caligula*



Administrative Stuff

Paper II Rewrites

- Due: Now

Fall Semester:

- Greek Civilization
 - *MW 5:30-6:45*

Homework

Read:

- Suetonius: *Claudius*

Paper III

Your assignment is to write a well-written, well-edited, well-argued, and well-researched argumentative paper.

You may choose your own topic: anything that you have learned, read, or questioned in this class.

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Paper Outline

- Your paper should be approximately **1250-2500 words (5-10 pages)**, though you will be graded on writing and content, not length.
- You **MUST** use at least **three sources** and at least **three direct quotes** from your sources. You must use **at least one primary source**.
- The final paper is due May 10, 5:30 p.m., submitted at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted. There will be no opportunity for re-writes.

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Paper Outline

- Due Thursday, April 14 (two weeks)
- Graded (out of 20 points)
 - *Topic*
 - *Thesis*
 - *Outline of major supporting points*
 - *List of sources*

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Possible topics (but you must find **your** argument):

- Classical Tradition (Ancient Rome in America)
- Rebuilding ancient monuments/buildings
- Augustus and propaganda
- Women in Rome
- Death and succession of emperors
- Entertainment in Rome (gladiator games)
- Christianity
- Literature/architecture
- Rewrite/expand a previous paper



Tiberius

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus

Early Career

- 20 BCE: Served with Agrippa in the east (retrieved standards)
- Married Agrippa's daughter, Vipsania Agrippina
- Fought against the Gauls and in the Alps
- 13 BCE: Elected consul
- 11 BCE: Forced to divorce Vipsania and marry Augustus' daughter Julia
 - *Cause of great unhappiness*
- 7 BCE: Elected consul
- 6 BCE: Given command in the east and tribunicia potestas
- 6 BCE: Retires to Rhodes

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus

Succession

- After the deaths of Lucius and Gaius Caesar, Tiberius was recalled to Rome in 4 by Augustus
- Tiberius was adopted by Augustus on the condition that he also adopt his nephew Germanicus

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus



Germanicus

- Twice consul
- Commander in Germania
- After Augustus' death, Germanicus' soldiers wanted him to be emperor
- Germanicus refused, chose to stay a general
- Many victories in Germania, recovered Roman standards
- Tiberius awarded Germanicus a triumph
- Germanicus was given command in the east
 - *A threat to Tiberius?*

Germanicus

Germanicus Julius Caesar



“It is agreed that Germanicus possessed all the blessings of body and mind to an extent that no one else ever had: he had extraordinary good looks and was exceptionally courageous; he was talented in both branches of eloquence and learning; he was unusually gracious and remarkably successful in his desire to win men’s devotion and elicit their affection...”

—Suetonius

Twelve Caesars, Caligula

Germanicus

Germanicus Julius Caesar



... (His thin legs did not fit this handsome impression so well, but they gradually filled out because he rode his horse frequently after eating.) He often struck down enemies in hand-to-hand combat.”

—Suetonius

Twelve Caesars, Caligula

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus



Germanicus

- Germanicus died shortly thereafter
 - *Possibly poisoned by Gnaeus Calpurnius Piso, on orders from Tiberius?*

Germanicus

Germanicus Julius Caesar



“Poison was suspected, for in addition to the bruises that covered his body and the foam that came from his mouth, his heart was found undamaged among the cremated remains. (It is believed that the heart, by its very nature cannot be consumed by fire if it has been contaminated by poison.)”

—Suetonius

Twelve Caesars, Caligula

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divī Augustī Fīlius Augustus

Tiberius

- Tiberius retired from Rome to Capri (26)

Tiberius

Tiberius at Capri

“Moreover, having gained the license of privacy, and being as it were out of sight of the citizens, he at last gave free reign at once to all the vices which he had for a long time ill concealed; and of these I shall give a detailed account from the beginning.”

—Suetonius

Tiberius, 42.1

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus

Tiberius in Capri

- “It is a long story to run through his acts of cruelty in detail; it will be enough to mention the forms which they took”
 - *“Not a day passed without an execution”*
 - *Men, women, and children were executed*
 - *Since strangling virgins was impious, they were raped first, then strangled*
 - *Various methods of torture*

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus

Tiberius in Capri

- Pre-occupied with sexual indecency
 - *Prostitutes*
 - *Sex grottos*
 - *Erotic art and libraries*

Tiberius

Tiberius Caesar Divī Augustī Fīlius Augustus

Death of Tiberius

- Died on March 16, 37 at the age of 78
- Crowds cheered at the end of the terror
- Senate refused to deify Tiberius
- In his will, Tiberius named Tiberius Gemellus and Gaius, son of Germanicus, as heirs

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus
(r. 18 March 37 – 24 January 41)



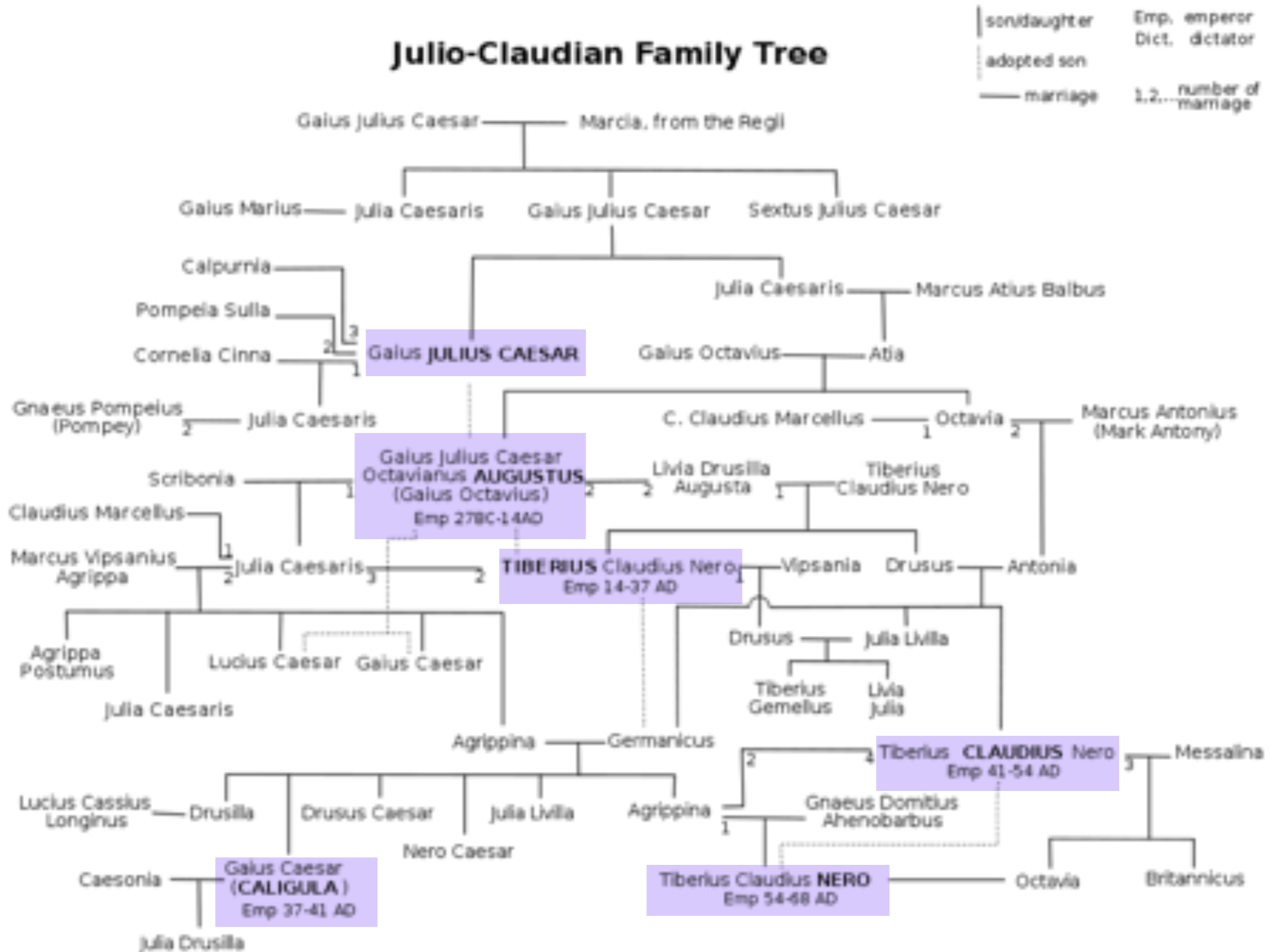
Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Early Life

- Born Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus on August 31, 12 to:
 - *Germanicus (adopted son of Tiberius)*
 - *Agrippina the Elder (daughter of Agrippa and Julia)*

Julio-Claudian Family Tree



Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Early Life

- Earned the nickname “Caligula” on military campaigns with his father
 - *“Little Boots”*
- After his father died, Caligula was sent to live with his great-grandmother, then his grandmother
- In 31, Caligula went to live with Tiberius on Capri
 - *Lived almost as a prisoner*

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

“If Gaius lives, it will mean my own death... I am nurturing a viper for the Roman people and a Phaethon for the world.”

—Tiberius

Suetonius, Caligula

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Accession

- March 16, 37: Caligula murdered Tiberius (maybe)
 - *According to Suetonius*
 - *Tiberius was 78, on his death bed*
 - *Others claim natural causes, other murderer*
- Became Emperor on March 18, 37

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Caligula as Emperor

- Welcomed by everyone
 - *Because he was not Tiberius*
- 160,000 animals sacrificed in his honor in three months
- First act: nullified the will of Tiberius and had Gemellus executed
- Had other family members executed or exiled
- Spared his uncle Claudius
 - *Simply to laugh at him*



Coin, Caligula

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Building Projects

- Completed the Theater of Pompey and the Temple of Augustus
- Built two new aqueducts
- Rebuilt the walls at Syracuse
- Built new roads

Caligula

Description

“He was very tall and extremely pale, with an unshapely body, but very thin neck and legs. His eyes and temples were hollow, his forehead broad and grim, his hair thin and entirely gone on the top of his head, though his body was hairy. Because of this to look upon him from a higher place as he passed by, or for any reason whatever to mention a goat, was treated as a capital offense. While his face was naturally forbidding and ugly, he purposely made it even more savage, practicing all kinds of terrible and fearsome expressions before a mirror.”

—Suetonius

Caligula, 50.1

Caligula

Description

“He was sound neither of body nor mind ...

He himself realized his mental infirmity, and thought at times of going into retirement and clearing his brain ...

I think I may fairly attribute to mental weakness the existence of two exactly opposite faults in the same person, extreme assurance and, on the other hand, excessive timorousness.”

—Suetonius

Caligula, 50.2-51.1

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

*“But enough of Caligula the emperor;
now to Caligula the monster.”*

—Suetonius

Caligula, 22.1

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- Wanted to be worshipped as a living god
- Appeared in public dressed as Hercules, Dionysus, Mercury, Apollo, Neptune, Juno, and Venus.
- Removed heads from statues of gods, and replaced them with his own.
- Claimed he was Jupiter
 - *In order to seduce women*
 - Particularly his sisters

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- “He lived in habitual incest with all his sisters”
- “When [his sister Drusilla] died, he appointed a season of public mourning, during which it was a capital offense to laugh, bathe, or dine in company with one's parents, wife, or children.”
- “The rest of his sisters he did not love with so great affection, nor honor so highly, but often prostituted them”
- Attend marriages, “marry” the wife, then divorce her and banish her for going back to her former husband
- “He invited women to dinner with their husbands, and... inspect them critically and deliberately, as if buying slaves, ... then sending for the one who pleased him best, and returning soon afterwards, he would openly commend or criticize his partner, recounting her charms or defects and commenting on her conduct.”

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- “Senators he secretly put to death, yet continued to send for them as if they were alive, after a few days falsely asserting that they had committed suicide.”
- “At a gladiatorial show he would sometimes draw back the awnings when the sun was hottest and give orders that no one be allowed to leave”
- Once when bored, he threw unsuspecting audience members into the arena to fight wild beasts

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- To save money he fed criminals to the wild beasts rather than pay for food
- He forced parents to attend the executions of their sons
- When a Roman knight on being thrown to the wild beasts loudly protested his innocence, he took him out, cut off his tongue, and put him back again.
- He seldom had anyone put to death except by numerous slight wounds, his constant order, which soon became well-known, being: "Strike so that he may feel that he is dying."

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- Spending
 - *“He even scattered large sums of money among the commons from the roof of the basilica Julia for several days in succession.”*
 - *“To make a long story short, vast sums of money, including the 2,700,000,000 sesterces which Tiberius Caesar had amassed, were squandered by him in less than the revolution of a year.”*

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Caligula was impoverished

- Nullified wills
- New taxes
 - *Food*
 - *Lawsuits*
 - *Prostitution*
- Opened a brothel

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Madness of Caligula

- Military conquests
 - *Conquered many 'enemies'*
 - *Conquered new 'lands'*

Caligula

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

“Construction” Projects



Vatican Obelisk



Zeus at Olympia



Planned to dig the Corinth Canal

Caligula

Pontoon Bridge

“He also built [ships] with ten banks of oars, with sterns set with gems, particoloured sails, huge spacious baths, colonnades, and banquet-halls, and even a great variety of vines and fruit trees; that on board of them he might recline at table from an early hour, and coast along the shores of Campania amid songs and choruses.”

—Suetonius

Caligula, 37.2



Floating Palace



Floating Palace

Caligula

Pontoon Bridge

Thrasyllus the astrologer:

“Gaius had no more chance of becoming emperor than of riding about over the gulf of Baiae with horses.”

—Suetonius

Caligula, 19.3



Pontoon Bridge



Bay of Naples



Caligula and Incitatus

Incitatus

Caligula's Horse

Incitatus received:

- Marble stall
- Purple blankets
- Gem-encrusted collar
- House with furniture
- Team of slaves
- Extravagant dinner parties
- Consulship



Caligula and Incitatus

Death of Caligula

Assassination

Death

- Caligula was assassinated on January 24, 41 by members of the Praetorian Guard at the age of 28
- Like Caesar, the assassins were lead by a Cassius
 - *Cassius Longinus and Cassius Chaerea*
- Caligula's family was murdered
- His uncle Claudius, hid behind curtains and was rescued by the Praetorian Guard
- With the support of the Guard, Claudius became emperor on January 25, 41