

Hum 110, Reed College
Prof. Laura Leibman
Livy 2: Study Questions

1. **Genres of History.** Historian Elizabeth Boone suggests that historians have traditionally focused histories around three subjects: events (*Res Gestae*), geography (cartographic history), and time (annals). In a *res gestae*, the deeds or events of specific individuals or groups outline the story. Although time and place are often given, they are subsumed by the other more primary story about "deeds done." In a cartographic history, the primary storyline is the journey of a people or person (usually migration stories are organized this way). The primary purpose is to trace a path through space. Histories which are organized around time (usually annals) use time as the primary organizing principle and there is often a suggestion of continuity given by the repetition of temporal markers (years, months, dates). Often there is no "larger" story that needs to control details (e.g. in city records.) As you read Livy, consider which organizing principle is most crucial to his story. What does this choice imply? Think back to other histories and texts we have read. What is the focus of those narratives?

2. **Character Development.** One of the things that Nathalia will be discussing about Livy is his use of "representative men." What traits stand out about Roman heroes in Books 2 & 5? Choose a "representative American" and compare him or her to one of Livy's heroes (or you might compare a negative example from each culture).

3. **Rhetoric.** Do a close reading of a passage from Livy using the rhetoric handouts from last semester. How does Livy use pathos, ethos, and logos to convince reinforce the main themes of the passage. (What are the main themes?)

1. Pathos (Emotion)

Definition: "Creating a certain disposition in the audience" (*Rhetoric* 1356a, 1377b). An emotional appeal that secures the goodwill of the hearer

Types:

- A. lay claim to qualities that the audience will respect
- B. stress disadvantages of speaker's situation as a claim to pity
- C. arouse hostility against opponent
- D. generate prejudice against the opponent through tangential or irrelevant information.
- E. incite fear
- F. plea for pity

2. Ethos (Moral Character)

Definition: Use of claims about speaker's moral character to gain trust of audience. The province of ethos is wisdom, virtue, and goodwill.

Types:

- A. appeal to age & experience
- B. reverence for civic virtue
- C. patriotism and public-spiritedness
- D. displays of piety
- E. follow rules of decorum (e.g. avoid delicate subjects)
- F. model restraint

Uses of the Past: Why Ruins?

Name_____

Date_____

1. Identify the following passage. Supply the author, and where appropriate, the title of the work and the speaker. Describe the quotation's place in (see below) and importance for the work. Identify the stylistic hallmarks of the work that are present in the quote. What themes are present? What metaphors or similes? How do they work? What type of diction is being used? How does the writer use logos, pathos, and ethos to persuade us?

2. Alternative: Why do we need ruins in foundation stories? What is the significance of ruins? (Greek and Roman ruins for Livy and Virgil, Greek and Roman ruins for us!) Do a close reading of the below picture of a Roman ruin by Thomas Cole based on Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Compare this ruin to the fall of Troy as depicted by Livy.



