



University
of Victoria

Greek & Roman
Studies

Greek and Roman Studies 352: Bad Emperors

Spring 2025 TWF 12:30-1:20 p.m. Professor Mark Nugent



Caligula, Nero, Domitian, Commodus, Elagabalus—these emperors' names have become by-words for depravity, cruelty, and insanity. GRS 326 explores the reigns and legacies of Rome's worst emperors. The course features readings in Greek and Roman historical sources—from Suetonius' *Lives of the Caesars* to the lurid fantasies of the *Historia Augusta*—alongside receptions of bad emperors in post-classical contexts.

- learn critical approaches to studying ancient gossip about emperors
- examine the social and cultural factors that shaped historical accounts of emperors
- learn about power politics in the Roman Empire
- explore the afterlives of bad Roman emperors in modern popular culture

No prerequisites. One of GRS 100 or GRS 102 recommended.