

**Dr Andrew Fear**



**Course Summary:**

This course looks at the Roman Army in the Western Empire between the reigns of the Emperors Augustus and Septimius Severus. The frontiers examined are primarily those in Britain and Germany. Rome's opponents had very different ideas of what warfare was about to the Romans, and we look closely at the problems and challenges of asymmetric warfare. We examine the workings of the army in detail – its formations, its weaponry, and fortifications – and ask the question what can these tell us about its fighting styles and overall purpose. We also examine through texts such as the Vindolanda Tablets the army's broader impact on the societies among which it lived. The army was not a static entity and so part of the course looks at how it changed and evolved to meet new challenges over the 200+ years we study and ask why these changes happened and what they can tell us about the quality of the army and changes in foreign policy (and indeed ask if such a thing as the latter existed). Our story includes great successes, but also great failures such as the defeat in the Teutoburgerwald in Germany. It also, of course, includes the erection of great linear barriers and we look at the most famous of these, Hadrian's Wall, in depth and think about the still controversial question what, actually, was Hadrian's Wall for?

### **Modes of Teaching:**

- 22 hours lectures
- 8 hours seminars
- Two field trips: one to Chester, one to Hadrian's Wall
- A battle simulation – your chance to outdo Germanicus or Boadicea!
- Weekly office hours

Lectures introduce the key themes and narrative history of the course, providing a framework to guide students' engagement with further primary and secondary reading. Seminars allow a more detailed study of key issues and allow students to develop their own arguments in oral and written form.

Blackboard: seminars and lectures are usually supported by PowerPoint, which will also be uploaded to Blackboard after each lecture.

Bibliographic resources (both written and electronic) are provided both for the course in general and lectures in particular

### **Method of Assessment:**

All students: Examination (60%) and Essay (40%)

### **Preliminary Reading**

**Tacitus, *Annals* – look at the campaigns in Germany in books one and two**

***The Elder Edda***

**A Goldsworthy – *The Complete Roman Army***

**J Eaton – *Leading the Roman Army***

**D. Breeze & B. Dobson – *Hadrian's Wall***

**E A Thompson – *The Early Germans***

**Contact:** If you have questions, please contact the course convener: [andrew.fearl@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.fearl@manchester.ac.uk)