The Romans

SLT 2016

Course No. 4.41478

On our menu today:

- **A look back** on
  - Non-Western & Ancient Greek thought on Language
  - Echoes of the **Nomos/ Phusis** & **Analogy/Anomaly** debates throughout the Middle Ages and beyond
  - Later Greek Thought (Dionysius Thrax / Alexandrians)

- **A glimpse of the Roman Empire**, providing some context to later developments in Greek and Roman thought:
  - Varro (1st c. BC)
  - Aelius Donatus (4th century AD)
  - Priscian (6th c. AD)

Reminder:

- The **nomos/phusis** debate gave rise to two divergent views:
  - The "*analogists*," who looked on language as possessing an essential regularity as a result of convention, and
  - The "*anomalists*," who explained the lack of linguistic regularity by the inherent irregularities of nature.

- **The Alexandrians** (*analogists*) standardized Greek grammar (orthos).

- **The Stoics** (*anomalists*): the study of dialectics begins with the study of language

- **Dionysius Thrax** (2nd century BC) wrote *The Art of Grammar –* the first systematic grammar of Greek in which he analyzed literary texts in terms of letters, syllables, and eight parts of speech.

Roman Republic

In late **6ᵗʰ c. BC**, the small city-state of **Rome** became a **Republic**, which (in theory) represented all of its citizens.

From this basis, Rome went on to conquer all of the Italian peninsula and beyond.

The Republic endured for 5 centuries, until, wrecked by civil wars, it transformed into a **Principate** ruled by **emperors**.

Roman Expansion in the Republican Period. Red = original area of Rome.

The Roman Empire
130 B.C.

Hodges

SARMATIA

Rhine

Rhone

Alps

Po

Danube

Pavia

Massilia

HISPANIA

Tagus

Tarraco

Saguntum

Carthago Nova

CORSICA

SARDINIA

ITALIA

Rome

MACEDONIA

Pergamum

ASIA

CAPPADOCIA

CILICIA

Hippo

NUMIDIA

Carthage

SICILIA

Corinth
ACHAEA

Athens

Antioch

SYRIA

AFRICA

Mediterranean
Sea

CRETE

CYPRUS

Damascus

Alexandria

JUDEA

Jerusalem

Memphis

ARABIA

EGYPT

IMPERIUM ROMANUM 211 AD

The Roman Empire at its Height

Britannia
Atlantic Ocean
Gaul
Italy
Rome
Spain
Greece
Macedonia
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
ASIA MINOR
Judea
Mediterranean Sea
AFRICA
Egypt
Nile River
Red Sea

Roman Empire, C.E. 117

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

Trier

Lugudunum

Massilia

Gades

Rome

Naples

Athens

Ephesus

Antioch

Carthage

Berytus

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Alexandria

Roman World
urbanization in 2nd Cent. CE

CALEDONIA

OCEANUS ATLANTICUS

HIBERNIA

OCEANUS GERMANICUS

MARE SUEVICUM

SARMATIA EUROPEA

SARMATIA ASIATICA

BRITANNIA

OCEANUS GALLICUS

GERMANIA

Germania

Belgica

Lugdunensis

OCEANUS CANTABRIUS

GALLIA

Aquitania

VENDELICIA

RHAETIA

NORICUM

PANNONIA

IAZYGES

Carpatos Mons.

DACIA

Narbonensis

Gallia Cisalpina

ITALIA

CAspium MARE

Tarraconensis

Pyrenaei M.

HISPANIA

Lusitania

ILLYRICUM

Dalmatia

MARE HADRIAETICUM

MOESIA

Caucasus Mons

ALBANIA

COLCHIS

IBERIA / BER

PONTUS EUXINUS

Taurica

MAEOTIS PALUS

Baetica

CORSICA

SARDINIA

MEDITERRANEUM

THRACIA

MACEDONIA

EPIRUS

AEGAEUM MARE

Hellas

Mysia

Phrygia

ASIA

Lydia

Caria

Lycia

BITHINIA

GALATIA

Lycaenia

PAMPHYLIA

PONTUS

ARMENIA MINOR

CAPADOCIA

CILICIA

ARMENIA MAJOR

ATROPATENE

MEDIA

REGNUM PARTHORUM

MESOPOTAMIA

MAURITANIA

Tingitana

Atlas Mons.

Caesariensis

NUMIDIA

SICILIA

Creta

Cyprus

SYRIA

BABELONIA

Syriae Deserta

MARE

AFRICA

CYRENAICA

AEGYPTUS

JUDEA

ARABIA PETRAEA

ARABICUS SINUS

ARABIA

ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT

Libyae Deserta

LIBYA

The Spread of Christianity. Christian churches appeared first in the major cities of the Empire and spread only gradually into the countryside, in part due to the establishment of monasteries.

The Byzantine Empire

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE
circa AD 1000

Limits in 972, under Otto I

Limits in 1032, under Conrad II

KINGDOM OF DENMARK

Ripen

Hedeby

MARCH OF SCHLESWIG

Schleswig

BILLUNG MARCH

Jomsborg

Kołobrzeg

Gdańsk

PRUSSIA

FRISIA

Hamburg

Mecklenburg

Wolin

Stettin

POMERANIA

Groningen

Bremen

Lüneburg

NORTHERN MARCH

Havelberg

Brandenburg

Poznan

Gniezno

Vistula

KINGDOM OF ENGLAND

HOLLAND

Utrecht

Rhine

Osnabrück

Minden

DUCHY OF SAXONY

Magdeburg

Jüterbog

MARCH OF LAUSITZ

KINGDOM OF POLAND

Canterbury

Bruges

Ghent

Antwerp

DUCHY OF LOWER LORRAINE

Cologne

Münster

Weser

Hildesheim

Goslar

Quedlinburg

Zerbst

Merseburg

MARCH OF MERSEBURG

Meissen

Budissin

Breslau

Boulogne

Tournai

Valenciennes

Aachen

Liège

Koblenz

Paderborn

Dortmund

Fritzlar

Naumburg

Erfurt

Zeitz

MARCH OF MEISSEN

MARCH OF ZEITZ

Prague

DUCHY OF BOHEMIA

Olmütz

Arras

Cambrai

Bouillon

Fulda

THURINGIA

MORAVIA

Rheims

Arlon

Trier

Mainz

Frankfurt

DUCHY OF FRANCONIA

Pilsen

Brünn

Paris

Verdun

Metz

Ingelheim

Worms

Würzburg

Bamberg

NORDGAU

KINGDOM OF HUNGARY

Chartres

Châlon

DUCHY OF UPPER LORRAINE

Toul

Speyer

Rottenburg

Eichstädt

Regensburg

Passau

EASTERN MARCH

Vienna

Pressburg

Troyes

Sens

Hirsau

Ulm

Danube

Freising

Linz

Gran

Buda

Orléans

Auxerre

Clairvaux

Strasbourg

DUCHY OF SWABIA

Augsburg

Lechfeld (955)

DUCHY OF BAVARIA

Salzburg

Sopron

Raab

Alba Regia

Bourges

Autun

Dijon

Besançon

Basel

Zürich

Constance

St Gall

Inn

CARINTHIAN MARCH

Friesach

Danube

Clermont

Cluny

Pontarlier

Lausanne

St Gothard 2108 m.

Rhine

Brenner 1372 m

Brixen

Villach

Pecs

Le Puy

KINGDOM OF FRANCE

Lyon

Mâcon

Geneva

Grand St Bernard 2469 m.

MARCH OF VERONA

Trento

Krainburg

Laibach

MARCH OF CARNIOLA

Zagreb

Vienne

Mont-Cenis 2081 m

Milan

Aquileia

Trieste

Fiume

Sisak

Grenoble

Turin

Brescia

Verona

Venice

ISTRIAN MARCH

KINGDOM OF CROATIA

Valence

Embrun

Pavia

Mantua

REPUBLIC OF VENICE

Tuzla

Béziers

Avignon

KINGDOM OF BURGUNDY

LOMBARDY

Parma

Modena

Po

Bologna

Zara

KINGDOM OF SERBIA

Aix

Arles

Nice

Genoa

PENTAPOLIS

Spalato

Narbonne

Marseille

CORSICA

Pisa

Florence

MARQUISATE OF TUSCANY

Sienna

Perugia

Spoleto

Ragusa

COUNTY OF BARCELONA

PAPAL STATES

Rome

DUCHY OF SPOLETO

Monte Cassino

Capua

DUCHY OF BENEVENTO

Benevento

Bari

PUGLIA

Gaeta

Seine

Loire

Rhône

Elbe

Oder

Meuse

Myth & Legend

B/4 the overthrow of the last king, **Tarquinius Superbus (**Tarquin the Proud) in 510 BC, the history of the city is shrouded in myth.

For years Rome had admired the culture of the Greeks, and so it easily embraced the story of **Aeneas** and the founding of Rome (Virgil's **Aeneid**).

This story gave the Romans a link to an ancient, albeit **Greek**, culture. This mythical tale is about Aeneas and his followers who, with the assistance of the goddess **Venus**, escaped the city of **Troy** as it fell to the Greeks in the **Trojan War**. **Jupiter**'s wife **Juno** constantly interfered with the story's hero Aeneas throughout the tale. After a brief stay in **Carthage**, Aeneas eventually made his way to Italy, fulfilling his destiny.

His descendants were the twins **Romulus and Remus** - the illegitimate sons of **Mars**, the god of war, and the princess Rhea Silvia, the daughter of the true king of Alba Longa. Rescued from drowning by a she-wolf and raised by a shepherd, Romulus eventually defeated his brother in battle and founded the city of Rome, becoming its first king. So the legend goes.

With nearly 3,000 years of rich history, Rome is often called the "Eternal City." Though Rome dates back to possibly **625 B.C.**, the oldest continuously populated city in the world is widely to be considered Byblos in present-day Lebanon dating back to 5000 B.C.

Rome's population of > a million was not matched by any other European city until London finally overtook it in the 19th century
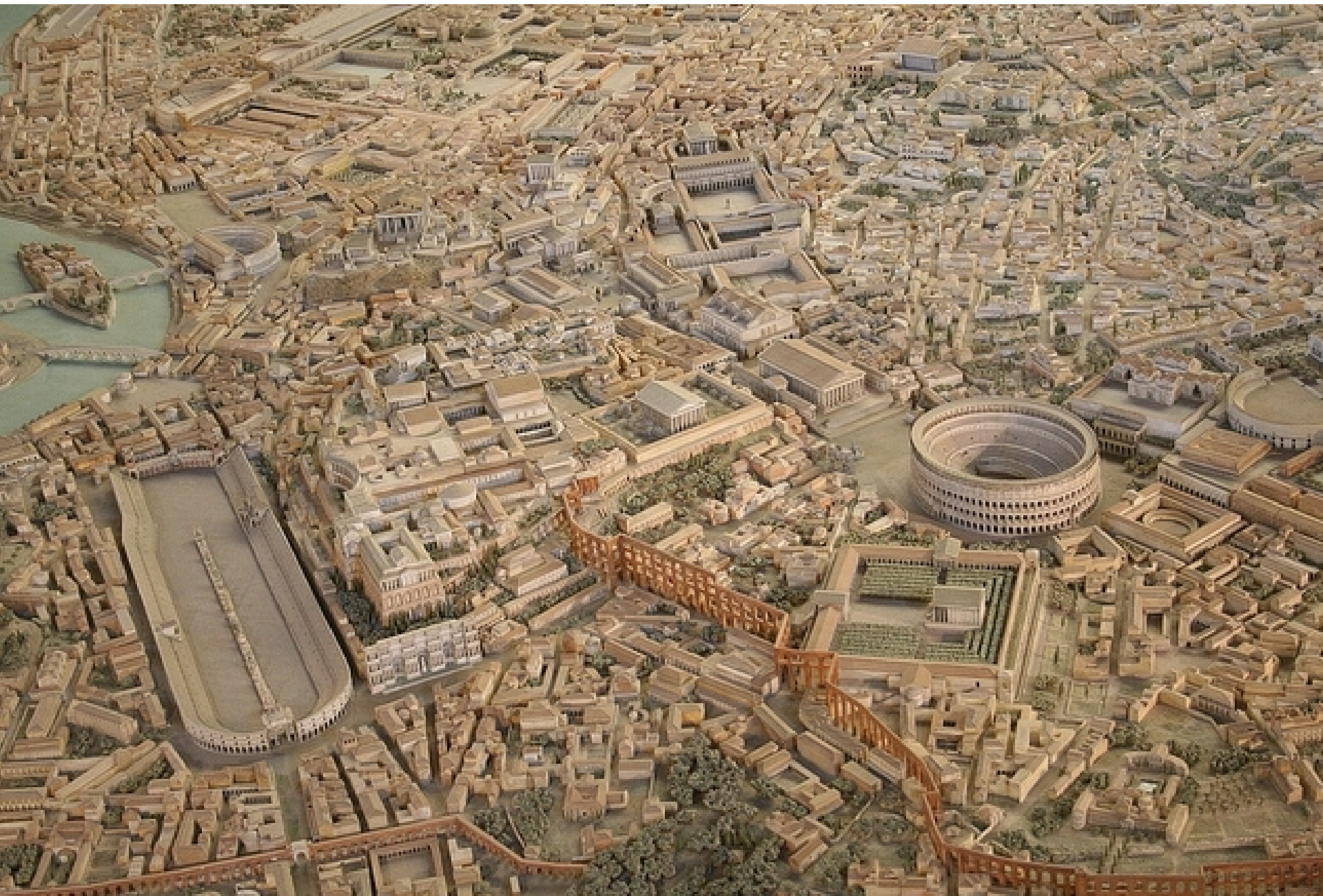
Population of Ancient Rome > 1 million
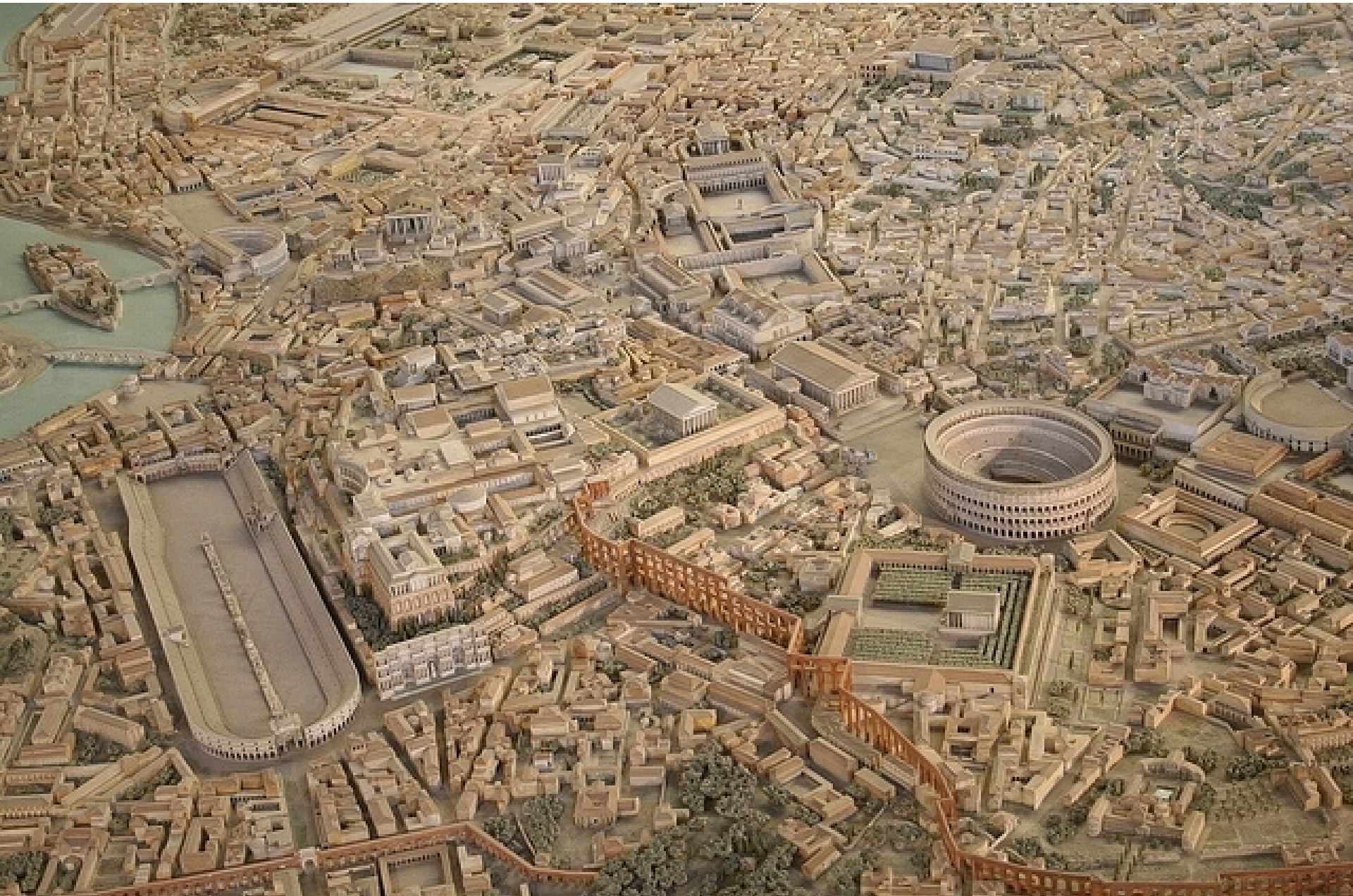
The city of Rome (Italy) got its first Roman aqueduct in **312 BC**: the Aqua Appia. Although aqueducts were not their invention, Romans were very good engineers and brought the design and construction of aqueducts to an all time high.

Aqueducts

Most Roman aqueducts were over **55 feet high**. Their great height not only controlled the flow of water but also made it more difficult for someone to steal water and for enemies to put poison in it.

The Roman Aqueduct of Segovia was built of stones **with no mortar** and is still used to carry water today!

By the early 4th century, the Romans had built a road network of 53,000 miles throughout the empire. Each Roman mile was about 1,000 paces (about 4,800 feet) and was marked by a milestone.

On the day the Colosseum officially opened, 5,000 animals were killed. During its history, it has been estimated that over 700,000 people and over a million animals were killed there

The Colosseum

gladiator

-15c., "Roman swordsman" < Latin gladiator (fem. gladiatrix) "fighter in the public games; swordsman"

<**gladius** "sword"; probably from Gaulish Cf.

- Welsh **cleddyf** →Old Irish **claideb**
- Cornish **clethe**
- Breton **kleze** "sword"

The close resemblance to Celtic words for 'sword', and the semantic field of weaponry;

→ Latin borrowed a form *gladio- or *kladio- from Proto-Celtic.
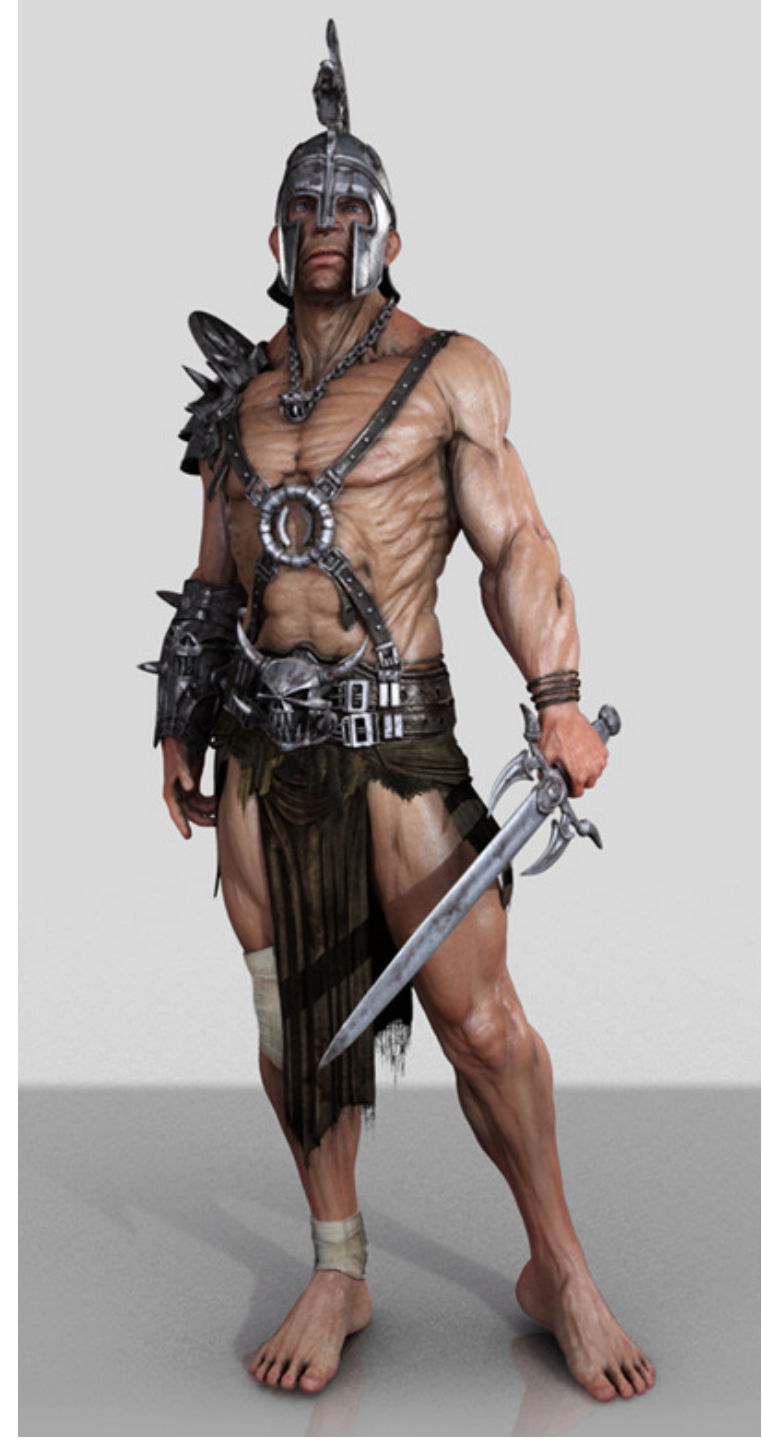
Bestiarii

- fought wild beasts (no swords)
- were often criminals or POWs

They were found during building work on the Grade II-listed Newington Hotel, which overlooks the Knavesmire and is being converted into housing.

The 1,800-year-old skeletons were found beneath the hotel's pool.

It is also close to the Driffield Terrace burial ground, where the graves of 30 decapitated Roman men were found in 2005.

They are thought to have been gladiators who had lost their lives in arena combat.

The Colosseum

The **Colosseum** had a large sun roof that could be stretched over the crowd to keep the spectators in the shade. The Colosseum took 12 years to build, and the exit time for all **70,000** spectators was only three minutes.

Circus Maximus

The **Circus Maximus** could seat nearly **250,000** fans. In its passageways and arches under the seats, cooks and prostitutes catered to the fans' other needs.

For the Romans, a "circus" was a **chariot racetrack**, not the tented entertainment venue of today

Public amenities

Roman towns were provided with *forica*, or public lavatories. In lieu of toilet paper, Romans would use a wet sponge. Running water carried the waste to the main drains.

'Glittering forest of marble columns'

Lex XII Tabularum

- After the Romans deposed the last of their kings in 509 B.C., they created the Law of Twelve Tables in 450 B.C., a rule of law that remained in force for 800 years until the end of the western empire.

- **Law of the Twelve Tables** is the earliest written legislation of ancient Roman law

Ruthless Imperial Rule

After criticizing Rome's transition from a republic to an empire, the famous philosopher/rhetorician **Cicero** was murdered and had his head and hands displayed on the Rostra in the Forum Romanum.

It is rumoured that Fulvia, the wife of the influential Roman politician, Antony, pulled out Cicero's tongue and stabbed it repeatedly with her hairpin

Cicero (106–43 BC)

'A room without books is like a body without a soul'

Roman
- philosopher,
- politician,
- lawyer, &
- orator

Influenced by:
- Aristotle,
- Plato,
- Chrysippus
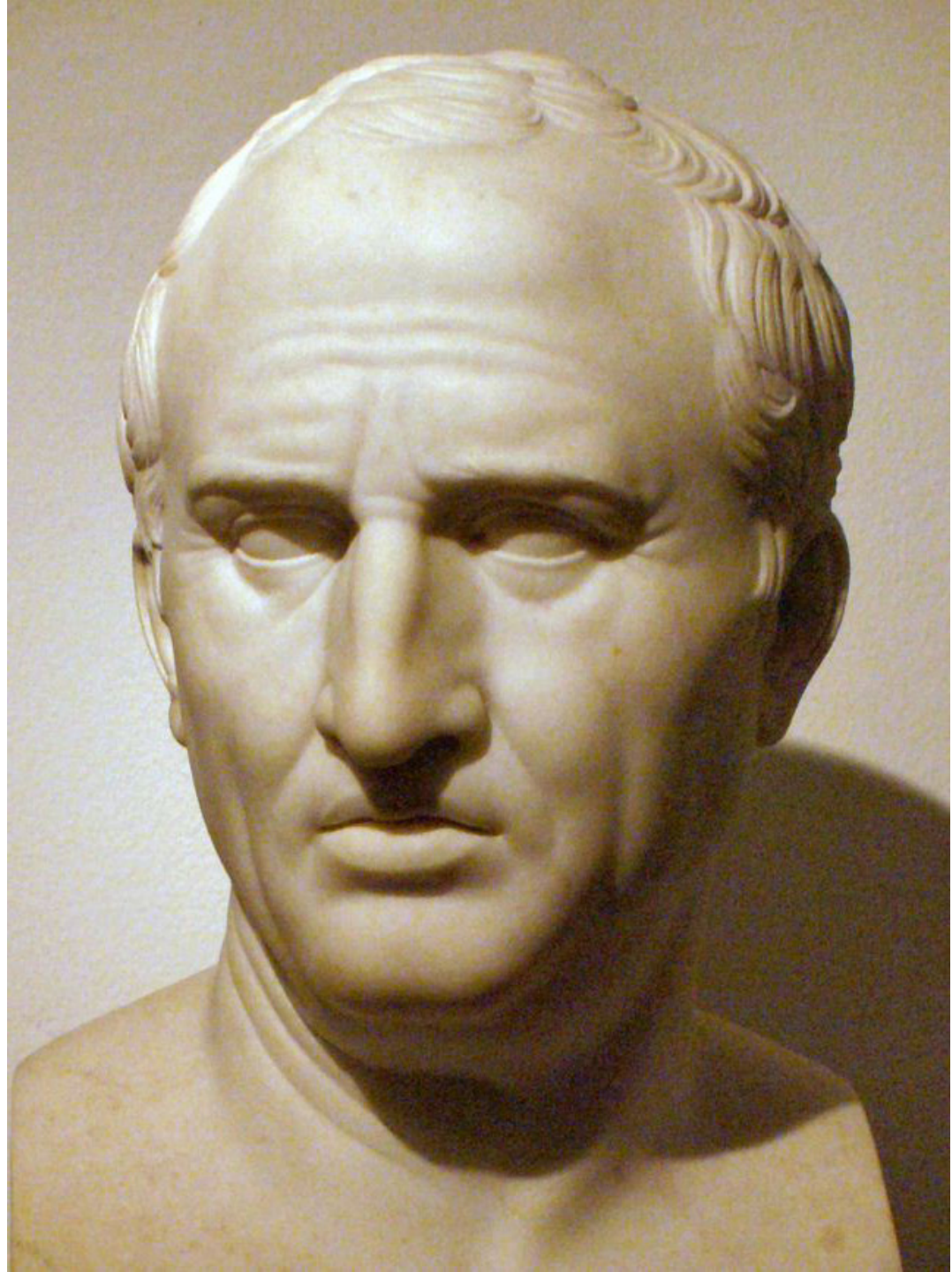
Random facts:

- In response to a 73 B.C. revolt against Rome by Spartacus the gladiator, 6,000 slaves were crucified

- The Romans were the first civilization to use **concrete** and the **arch** with any notable skill

- Rome's first university, La Sapienza (est. A.D. 1303), is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world

- The Romans did not use soap. To get rid of sweat and grime, they would cover themselves with oil and then scrape off the oil with special a scraper made of metal, wood, or bone called a *strigil*.

- Romans invented central heating and would warm rooms from under the floor using what was called a *hypocaust,* literally "heat from below." Homes of some rich people had both running water and central heating

Random facts:

- Most Roman aqueducts were over 55 feet high. Their great height not only controlled the flow of water but also made it more difficult for someone to steal water and for enemies to put poison in it. The Roman Aqueduct of Segovia was built of stones with no mortar and is still used to carry water today

- In A.D. 64, a huge fire destroyed half of Rome. Some claim **Nero** (37-68 AD) purposely set it so he could rebuild the city how he wanted it. The saying "Fiddling while Rome burns" comes from the story that Nero played his lyre while Rome burned.

Roman ambivalence to philosophy

The empire produced eminent philosophers such as **Seneca** and **Marcus Aurelius**.

Yet many Romans had mixed feelings about philosophy:

- it was a Greek invention, and the Greeks were a conquered race (Roman attitudes to the Greeks were very mixed)
- philosophy, with its hair-splitting definitions and its focus on the inner man, was considered to be unfit for an active man's life that would serve the state.

Galen, the doctor to the imperial court, remarked that the Romans regarded philosophy to be of no more use than drilling holes in millet seeds.

The Romans adopted the grammar of the Greeks

The Romans adopted the grammatical system of the Greeks and applied it to Latin. Most Latin grammarians did not attempt to alter the Greek system and also sought to protect their language from decay.

Exception:

Varro, of the **1st century BC**, who believed that grammarians should discover structures, and not prescribe them.

Highlights:

So the Romans are important not as originators but as *transmitters* of knowledge attained by the Greeks. Exceptions:

- **Aelius Donatus** [doʊˈneɪtəs] (4th century AD) was slightly more systematic than Greeks

- **Priscian**, an African of the **6th century AD**, distinguished between inflectional and derivational morphemes; Priscian Grammar – still living in schools! ☺

- Up to this point, *ars grammatica* (or 'the Art of Grammar') was a mix of investigations in general philosophy, logic, and rhetoric.

Priscianus Caesariensis (500), commonly known as **Priscian**, was a Latin grammarian and the author of the *Institutes of Grammar* which was the standard textbook for the study of Latin during the Middle Ages. It also provided the raw material for the field of **speculative grammar**.

Re-cap:

- The Romans, skilful engineers & warriors, had **mixed feelings about philosophy** (Greek invention)

- '*Transmitters*' of Greek knowledge

- **Highlights**:

  - **Varro** (1st century BC) – 'grammarians should **discover** structures'
  - **Donatus** (4th century AD) – more systematic in approach
  - **Priscian** (6th century AD) – innovation in morphology; Priscian Grammar