

# Cicero, The Greatest Orator

## Meeting the Man

### January – March 2016 : 10 week Course Information

10-12 noon, Old Deanery, Ripon. £110 for ten 2-hour sessions

#### **Brief details of the proposed topics to be covered each week**

#### **Week 1 Cicero, his life and times**

6 Jan

Thanks to Cicero, we have a detailed impression of life in the First Century BC in Rome: history, culture, literature, religion, philosophy, nobility, social *mores* ... it's all here. In this first session, we explore the context of Cicero's works and his remarkable life

No sessions on 13<sup>th</sup> January

#### **Week 2 Philosophy**

20 Jan

Cicero's philosophical writings are numerous and grant us a unique insight into the man himself as well as into philosophy in ancient Rome and its far-reaching role in political and personal lives. We look at *Academicus*; *de finibus*; *Stoic Paradoxes*; *Tusculan Disputations*; *Hortensius*

#### **Week 3 Oratory, the Route to Greatness**

27 Sept

It was Cicero's skill in oratory that raised him to greatness. Cicero shows us how oratory was fundamental in Roman Education and the political *cursus honorum* in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. His works on oratory include *de Inventio*; *Topics*; *On the Orator*, *Brutus*, *the Orator* & others

#### **Week 4 Laws**

3 Feb

Cicero's legal career was impressive and extensive. We explore Cicero's legal speeches and his work *de legibus* to gain an insight into how Rome worked and into Cicero's mind and ability.

#### **Week 5 Politics**

10 Feb

As seen by Cicero, consul of Rome. His part in the final decades of the Republic & this turning point in Western history as seen from his view and his influential philosophical musing on politics (including *de republica*; *de officiis*)

#### **Week 6 Religion**

17 Feb

State religion and personal religion in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC were entwined with all life. Cicero explores the nature of the gods, the Fates, divination and religious duties in his philosophical works, *de natura deorum*, *de fata*, *de divinatio*; *de officiis*. This is Roman religion eloquently considered and expressed.

#### **Week 7 On the Soul**

24 Feb

When tragedy struck, Cicero turned to philosophy to contemplate the great questions in life. His works on *Consolation* & his *Tusculan Disputations I* reveal a thoughtful and intense man.

#### **Week 8 On Old Age**

2 March

Cicero's often amusing work on Old Age (*de senectute*) and his Stoical philosophical work *Tusculan Disputations II* are realistic but often highly personal, inspiring and uplifting.

#### **Week 9 On Friendship**

9 March

Not just personal friendship, but Cicero's short work, *de amicitia*, and his *de officiis* that open a view to the tangled connections and obligations that friendship implied and required in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC still speak to us today.

#### **Week 10 Cicero's Legacy**

16 March

One time leader of the Roman Empire, Cicero was a force to be reckoned with. His writings are numerous, cover a vast range and offer us a unique picture of life in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC in Rome. His impact through the centuries and even today is no less remarkable.

#### **Aim:**

Gain an understanding of Cicero, his life and the context of the late Republic of Rome.

Understand the role of politics, law, oratory and ancient philosophies in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC within their social context.

Appreciate the sources of our knowledge of Greek and Roman philosophy.

Read a selection of Cicero's works in the original Latin and in translations, and a selection of other relevant texts.

Appreciate the legacy that the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC Rome and in particular Cicero has had through the ages and today.

Gillian Hovell

212 Woodfield Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4JF

Tel: 01423 203516 Mob. 07860 637301 Email: Gillian@muddyarchaeologist.co.uk

December 2015