

HIST 110 Western Civilization to 1500

Prof. Williams

Discussion 1: Suetonius, *Twelve Caesars*, lives of Augustus and Caligula

Prepare to answer the following questions in class based on specific examples of passages from the reading.

1. How did Augustus become emperor? What were his qualifications? Why did people accept him as emperor? Which groups of people did he have to win over?
2. According to Suetonius, what does an emperor do? How did Augustus spend his days? What about Caligula? For whom would the differences between them have been really important?
3. When an emperor dies, how is his successor chosen? What is the process? What are the criteria for selecting the next emperor? Who gets to decide?
4. If Augustus is a model of the “good emperor,” and Caligula of the “bad emperor,” then how would you describe good and bad emperors in general?