

## Professor Josephine “Joey” Romeo

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Hello students! My name is Joey Romeo [as in *Romeo and Juliet*] and I shall be your instructor for your history course! I received my MA in History and my Masters of Library Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2010 and my BA in Classics and History from the University of Virginia in 2007. I have spent the last few years intending to be a special collections librarian or archivist, but after spending one too many hours cooped up in my little cubical at the National Archives removing rusty staples and getting many paper cuts, I am excited to now be pursuing a career in education and especially to have this opportunity to teach the best subject ever: HISTORY!



I first fell in love with history in my early childhood years, in which I kept my summers busy with reading books and playing computer games. One game drew me back into Ancient Egyptian civilization where I mummified the Pharaohs and scavenged through the pyramids. I flew across the globe and skipped through time trying to find the evil Carmen Sandiego and her henchmen. In another game, I annoyingly never advanced to the next level because I could never guess how many years the Hundred Years' War lasted. The answer, by the way, is obviously not one hundred years. I read the American Girl Books (back when there was only Samantha, Molly, Felicity, and Kirsten) and other historical fiction books. I would even entertain myself by imagining that walking up the

stairs in my house or out the back door would transport me into different eras. Each school year I learned new things and had my new favorite subjects, whether it was the American Revolution, or the Middle Ages, or the Roaring Twenties.

When I entered the University of Virginia, I especially fell in love with the Roman world, declaring a Classics and History major simultaneously, just as a true Roman history nerd would do. I developed a serious history crush on Augustus. Moreover, to this day I wish to get a black or grey dog, call him Nero, buy him a Golden Palace—or you may so plainly call it a yellow dog bed—and give him a treat every day that he does not burn down the house. I, however, did not remain in the Roman World alone as I adventured into the Greece World [Go Sparta! Boo Athens!], ancient and modern Africa, modern Europe, and the United States.

When I had first started my historical studies, I wanted to know more about people in the past, how they lived and what was meaningful to them. But as the semesters and years passed I began to appreciate how different peoples throughout time created the world around them and thus gave shape to our modern world. Each professor and class moreover left me with a new way to think about the world. I hope that by the time you have finished this class, you shall also gain a certain appreciation for the people and civilizations that have shaped our world.

I am just beginning my adventure as a teacher at Northern Virginia Community College but I am no stranger to NVCC and am familiar with the ELI format. What is especially wonderful about this history course is that you have some flexibility in how you choose to get the work done. This, however, does not mean that you can wait until the last four weeks of the semester to get everything done. Rather, keep in mind that the flexible schedule is more to allow you to finish class earlier (what a wonderful feeling that is!) and to give you some leeway if you do get a *little bit* behind. (Pay special attention to the emphasis on a *little bit*.) It is best in the first week to read the entire website, pay attention to the firm deadlines, and create a plan on how you manage the assignments throughout the semester. With an ELI course, it is imperative that you hold yourself accountable for keeping up with the weekly readings and assignments.

But please remember that I am here to help you along the way. If you have any questions, if you are confused, if you have any problems, or if you just need someone to talk to, do not hesitate to contact me by email ([jromeo@nvcc.edu](mailto:jromeo@nvcc.edu)). It is what I am here for! It will only be on the rare occasion that I cannot check my email or get back to you within 48 hours.

On a final note: welcome to the course and many best wishes as you don the historian's cap and begin your adventure into Western Civilization!