

HANDOUT ROMAN ONOMASTICS (NAME PATTERNS)

1. **Praenomen** or individual name (very few, only for men: A = *Aulus*; C = *Gaius*; CN = *Gnaeus*; D = *Decimus*; L = *Lucius*; M = *Marcus*; M' = *Manius*; P = *Publius*; Q = *Quintus*; SAB = *Sabinnus*; SEX = *Sextus*; SP = *Spurius*; T = *Titus*; TI = *Tiberius* etc.).

2. **Nomen** or family name (always ending in *-ius* for men and in *-ia* for women).

3. **Filiation** (father's *praenomen* followed by **F** = *filius/filia*) or **Freedmen status** (master's *praenomen* followed by **L** = *libertus/liberta*).

4. **Tribus** or voting tribe (only for male citizens, who were registered in one of the 35 existing tribes according to where they lived: e.g. FAB = *Fabia*; MEN = *Menenia*; POB = *Poblilia*; SCA = *Scaptia*; VEL = *Velina*; VOL = *Voltinia* etc.).

5. **Cognomen** or nickname (hundreds of them, describing physical or moral features, occupation, geographic origin etc., e.g. *Agricola* = farmer; *Agrippa* = born feet first; *Faustus* = fortunate; *Felix* = lucky; *Fronto* = with a prominent forehead; *Fulvus* = blonde; *Gemellus* = twin; *Pictor* = painter; *Prudens* = prudent; *Rufus* = ginger haired. N.B. Greek nicknames usually indicate former slaves).

Slaves only had one name (*simplex nomen*) because they were considered as objects.