

The Ancient City – Description and Outline

Fall 2009

Faculty:

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This is a double course, combining history and material culture, and meets four days a week (Monday-Thursday).

Aims:

This course is designed to give students:

- A knowledge of the topography and monuments of the city of Rome (and other selected Greco-Roman cities of Italy) in relation to their development and history;
- An introduction to the nature of archaeological evidence in studying ancient Italian cultures, along with some understanding of its relationship to written evidence;
- An appreciation of the value of epigraphic evidence (inscriptions) and some basic skills in its use to study ancient Roman culture;
- An understanding that ‘The Ancient City’ was made up of people, not just a collection of buildings and streets;
- A sense of the transformations and continuities that relate the ancient city to the many later phases of its development (to emphasize this aspect of the course, visits to post-classical sites and consideration of reuse of classical sites will be included in many excursions and site visits).

Procedures:

Much of this course (at least two days a week) will be taught on site in Rome and its environs, **including** week-long fieldtrips to Sicily and Campania. Students will be expected to treat excursions and fieldtrips as essential parts of the learning experience and give to them the serious and undivided attention expected in the classroom. Students will themselves be responsible for some of the teaching in the form of site reports presented in the field.

Excursions and fieldtrips will be prepared for and supplemented by classroom teaching and substantial reading assignments. **A list of required texts is appended to this outline.** Further assignments will be made in readings available on reserve at the Centro.

Grades for this course will be based on participation, site reports, regular quizzes, a final examination, and a research paper, which may be based on a site report.

Outline of main themes of the course by week

Week 1: Orientation to the City: Evidence of ancient Rome and its Transformation

A general orientation to the city as a whole; an introduction to themes and resources in the study of the ancient city of Rome; consideration of the post-classical development of Rome and its impact on the remains of antiquity

Week 2: Early Rome and its Neighbours

The early development of Rome in the wider cultural context of Italy; Etruscan and early Greek influences (excursion to Tarquinia and Cerveteri, museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 3: Emergence of the Roman Republic, expansion in Italy

The impact on Rome of Roman expansion in Italy and beyond, and the spread of 'The Roman City' by colonisation (excursion to Veii and Cosa, museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 4: Rome and Italy in the Republican period.

The continuing effect of Mediterranean expansion on the city of Rome and on Italian communities (excursion to Gabii and Praeneste [Palestrina], museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 5: The Late Republic – the impact of autocracy

The impact of Julius Caesar on the city of Rome; to explore the relationship between Rome and the Latins in myth, history and ideology from Aeneas to Augustus (excursion to Alban Hills, site visits in Rome).

Week 6: Southern Italy and Sicily (weeklong field trip)

Earlier (Greek and Punic) urbanisation in Magna Graecia and Sicily and its influence on subsequent Roman settlement; Sicily as a cultural crossroads (visits to Paestum, Reggio Calabria, and numerous sites in Sicily, including Siracuse, Morgantina, Agrigento, Selinunte, Segesta, and Palermo).

Week 7: Fall Break

Week 8: Augustus and Rome: Images of Power

How and why the development of imperial Rome was different from that of Republican Rome, and in particular the impact of Augustus and Augustan ideology on the city (museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 9: Imperial Rome 1: Emperor, Ideology and Individual from Tiberius to the Antonines

The importance of new developments in architecture and sculpture in presenting imperial messages (museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 10: Imperial Rome 2: Ostia and Trajan's Rome

Aims: To emphasise that cities are communities of people and not just collections of monuments; to examine themes in imperial ideology and architectural development in the reign of Trajan (excursion to Ostia, museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 11: Campania (weeklong fieldtrip)

Aspects of urbanization and urban life in another important region of Roman Italy, including the cities destroyed (and preserved) by the eruption of Vesuvius in 69 CE (visits to include Terracina, Sperlonga, Capua, Baiae, Cumae, Pozzuoli, Naples, Herculaneum and Pompeii).

Week 12: Imperial Rome 3. Hadrian and Rome

A case study of the impact on Rome and its environs of imperial philhellenism and patronage of architecture (excursion to Hadrian's Villa and the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 13: The infrastructure of the city, social and economic issues

The position of Rome at the center of empire; to examine issues of urban infrastructure and daily life (second excursion to Ostia, with Isola Sacra and Portus; museum and site visits in Rome).

Week 14: Rome in Later Antiquity

Consideration of the effects of 'late antiquity' and Christianity on the city of Rome; emphasis on aspects of transformation and reception (site visits in Rome).

Required texts:

Weekly reading assignments will be made from each of the following books – you are expected to complete all readings in the week for which they are assigned.

P. Aicher, *Rome Alive: A Source Guide to the Ancient City, Volume 1* (Bolchazy Carducci Publishers, 2004; ISBN 13: 987-0-86516-473-4)

- A. Claridge, *Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide* (Oxford University Press, 1998; ISBN 0-19-288003-9)
- N. H. Ramage and A. Ramage, *Roman Art: Romulus to Constantine* (Prentice Hall, 1995; ISBN 0-13-150487-8)
- J. E. Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988; ISBN 0-8018-3692)

We recommend that everyone, especially if they have not had a formal course in Roman history, read

M.T. Boatwright, D. Gargola, R. Talbert, *A Brief History of the Romans* (Oxford University Press, 2006; ISBN 13: 978-0-19-518715-1),

and bring it to Rome, as we will provide recommendations for weekly readings in this textbook to refresh your memories.

All of these books should be available (new and used) through Amazon.com or other sites and bookstores.