CLAS 243 Archaeology of Rome

Janet Jones
Coleman 70
Office Hours MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appointment

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The Course:

Once you get to know the material culture, artistic styles, and architectural monuments of the Roman world, you can’t miss the impact of Roman culture on our lives. References to the Romans are all around us -- in art and literature, in architecture and civil engineering, in politics and religion, in the way we view the world in the west. The Romans were a very industrious and territorially expansive people, so we have a great amount and variety of material to cover. Because we have to pick and choose, I am always happy to know about your particular interests so that I can incorporate them into our classes. Please, let me know if there are certain topics you want to cover.

This class is structured around the discussion of illustrated examples -- I’ll show photos and we’ll talk about them. Really. I am relentless about calling on folks and expecting a considered response. Thus, it is essential that you do the assignment before the class for which it is due so that you will have opinions to offer about the material.

Texts:

Ramage and Ramage, Roman Art (Prentice Hall) deals with the art and architecture of Rome (study the illustrations for each class carefully).

Sear, Roman Architecture (Cornell) focuses on the development of major building types and technologies.

Marks and Tingay, The Romans (Usborne) (abbreviated as MT in your list of readings) which provides a good introduction to Roman history and an engaging summary of information about all aspects of Roman life. Read through the whole book as soon as you can and note on the schedule of readings which pages you should stress for which classes.

Please note that there are a few readings on reserve. Make note of when these readings are due and come to class prepared. If you have trouble getting to these readings please let me know.

Readings are to be done before the class for which they are listed.

Getting Up to Speed

The development of Roman culture owes a great deal to its contact with the more sophisticated Greek world. Therefore, we will begin with an exploration of the major trends in Greek art and architecture and how the Romans came into contact with them. Most of you have not taken CLAS 242 Archaeology of Greece. There are three copies of the textbook for that course: Biers The Archaeology of Greece. Make a quick run through the major monuments (LOOK at the pictures) in the last six chapters. I don't expect that you can do this carefully before the second day of class but I expect that you will have done this before the first test.

Requirements:

• Attendance & Participation (5%); Class attendance is important and I will spot check your attendance throughout the semester. Participation is even more important to me and I expect each and every one of you to make the effort to respond to open questions and to ask questions of your own at least several times during the term. I will notice if you don’t.

• Quiz Average (15%) There will be a very short quiz at the start of class every Wednesday which will cover material from the previous Wednesday and Monday.

• Hour Tests (15% each) These tests will investigate your knowledge of both ideas and facts. They will include slide identifications and discussion questions. I will provide review sheets in advance of the tests.

• Final exam (15%) The final exam will be a take home exam due at the time assigned for the final exam in the course. More on this in November

• Projects: There will be two projects –

  Project 1 (10%): A group archaeological exercise due on Tuesday Sept. 14 -- more about this next week.
Project 2 (15%): Choose a building / structure (local, hometown, Washington DC, anywhere) and discuss it in relation to what you have learned about Roman and Greek architectural orders. Many of these buildings will probably also owe much to the Neo-Classical style of architecture that we will discuss in class on November 3. In the paper, I would like you to compare your building to specific representative buildings or structures from the Roman world. We will discuss this again before Fall Break (a good time for getting photos of out-of-town structures--I will need photos of structures I can't get to). By then, too, I think you will have a much better idea of what you're dealing with. This paper should be about 5 pages and be composed largely of your own ideas and observations. So keep this project in mind as we go through the material. I will be pleased to read and comments on drafts ahead of the due date. Due November 17
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Reading</th>
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| Aug 25 W | Introduction  
Archaeological Excavation |                                                                         |
| Aug 30 M | Greek Archaeology (review)                | reserve: Biers, Chapters 5-7  
handout on excavation                                                   |
| Sept 1 W | South Italy (review)                      | reserve: Biers, Chapters 8-10                                          |
| Sept 6 M | Early Italy                               | Ramage Intro & Ch. 1, 29-46;  
MT 4 & 70                                                                 |
| Sept 8 W | Etruscans                                 | Ramage 46-57;  
Torelli in Bonfante, Ch 2 (e-reserve)                                 |
| Sept 13 M | Early Rome                                | Ramage 57-73;  
Sear Ch. 1;  
MT 4-11, 28-30                                                          |
| Sept 15 W | Aspects of Roman Life                     | MT 18-21, 30, 74;  
Sear Ch. 2  
Project 1 due                                                           |
| Sept 20 M | Beginnings of Roman Art                   | Ramage 73-99                                                            |
| **Sept 22 W** | Age of Augustus                      | Ramage Ch 3;  
MT 12-13, 22-23                                                          |
| Sept27 M | Augustan Art as Propaganda                | Zanker 89-100 (e-reserve)  
Sear Ch. 3                                                                |
| Sept29 W | **Test 1**                                |                                                                         |
| Oct 4 M | Julio-Claudians                           | Ramage Ch. 4;  
Sear Ch. 5;  
MT 23-24                                                                 |
| Oct 6 W | Roman Technology                          | Oleson (e-reserve);  
Sear Ch. 4 & 10                                                           |
| Oct 11 M | Ostia / Domestic Architecture             | Sear 118-133;  
Thebert (e-res)  
MT 34-43                                                                  |
| Oct 13 W | Flavians                                  | Ramage 157-175;  
Sear Ch. 7                                                                |
| Oct 18 M | Cities of Vesuvius                        | Ramage 175-191;  
Sear 103-118  
Ramage, Ch. 6;  
Sear 154-165                                                             |
| **Oct 20 W** | **Fall Break**                         |                                                                         |
| Oct 25 M | Hadrian                                    | Ramage Ch. 7;  
Sear 165-184                                                             |
<p>| Nov 1 M  | <strong>Test 2</strong>                                |                                                                         |
| Nov 3 W | Neo-Classical Architecture                 | Watkin (e-res)                                                          |
| Nov 8 M | Roman Athens                               | Camp, &quot;The Roman Agora&quot; (e-res);                                      |</p>
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<td>Nov 10W</td>
<td>Environmental Impact</td>
<td>Sear 231-239</td>
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<td>Hughes (e-res); Sear 202-209</td>
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<td>Nov 15M</td>
<td>Antonines</td>
<td>Ramage Ch. 8</td>
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<td>Nov 17W</td>
<td>Popular Culture meets the Ultimate Empire</td>
<td>Project II due</td>
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<td>Nov 22M</td>
<td>Severans &amp; Roman North Africa</td>
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<td>Nov 24W</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Nov 29M</td>
<td>Soldiers &amp; Tetrarchs</td>
<td>Ramage, Chs. 10-11</td>
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<td>Dec 1W</td>
<td>Age of Constantine</td>
<td>Ramage Ch. 12; Sear Ch. 12</td>
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<td>Dec 6M</td>
<td>Loose ends</td>
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(A Poem)

“Did I Miss Anything?”
Question frequently asked by students after missing a class
by Tom Wayman

Nothing. When we realized you weren’t here we sat with our hands folded on our desks in silence, for the full two hours.

Everything. I gave an exam worth 40 per cent of the grade for this term and assigned some reading due today on which I’m about to hand out a quiz worth 50 per cent.

Nothing. None of the content of this course has value or meaning. Take as many days off as you like: any activities we undertake as a class I assure you will not matter either to you or me and are without purpose.

Everything. A few minutes after we began last time a shaft of light descended and an angel or other heavenly being appeared and revealed to us what each woman or man must do to attain divine wisdom in this life and the hereafter. This is the last time the class will meet before we disperse to bring this good news to all people on earth.

Nothing. When you are not present how could something significant occur?

Everything. Contained in this classroom is a microcosm of human existence assembled for you to query and examine and ponder. This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered

but it was one place.

And you weren’t here.