

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 398 ROMAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

3 Credits

Professor Mercedes Carrara



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## OFFICE HOURS

9:30-10:30 MTR by appointment or open door policy

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of Roman art and architecture, starting with the Etruscans and ending with Constantine and the beginnings of Early Christian art. It fulfills the Fine Arts Core requirement.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course introduces students, through slide shows and field trips, to the classical heritage that shaped western civilization. Roman apartment houses, amphitheaters, public baths are still present in our global world in the form of condominiums, stadiums, health centers with saunas, swimming pools, and malls.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**A weekend trip to Rome** will allow students to see all the works studied through on site lectures. A week before the trip, each student will choose to act as presenter of at least three works, both he/she has studied in the classroom and wants to do extra research on them. He/she will share the newly acquired knowledge with the rest of the class in front of the work. Their topics will include both Ancient, High Renaissance, and Baroque art in Rome ( the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's frescoes in the Vatican, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and the Jesuit mother church of Il Gesù).

**Friday** and **Saturday** will be dedicated to **Rome**. **Sunday morning** will be spent in **Ostia Antica**, the ancient port of Rome.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course will make students literate in Ancient Rome with its Greek legacy and its enormous contributions to architecture, painting, and sculpture. They will see first hand the impact that the Pantheon dome had on Brunelleschi's dome over the Florence Cathedral. They will discover the affinities between Roman architecture and Baroque churches, between Roman sculpture and the works of Michelangelo and Bernini, Roman painting and Raphael's frescoes. This could also be the first step in the **Renaissance Track**, where the students also get a full immersion into Roman and Medieval History. They also go in literary journeys with Homer's *Odyssey*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Dante's *Inferno*, Marco Polo's trip to China, Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci's navigations to America.

The course can be taken singly, without following the Renaissance track.

## GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

Students are graded on three exams and a final paper in the classroom. They will also be graded on their presentations and field trips by keeping a journal with their impressions on the various works. The pieces they presented in the field trips can be used as entries for the final project.

University policy allows a maximum of six absences for a three credit course. At the seventh absence the student's grade will be lowered of a half point grade (A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B) and so on. There will be **no written make up tests** without a medical certificate.

Grades: (A 100-94) (A- 93.5—89) (B+ 88.5--85.5) (B 85—84) (B- 83.5--79) (C+ 78.5--75.5)  
(C 75—74) (C- 73.5—69) (D+ 68.5--65.5) ( D 65—64) (D- 63.5—59) (F 48—0)

## REQUIRED READING

Nancy H. Ramage and Andrew Ramage: *Roman Art*, fourth edition, 2005. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall

There will be various books on reserve in the library for consultation and class discussion in preparation for the Rome trip:

## COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

The course is divided into three sessions with an exam at the end of each section.

First exam will be on **Thursday, October 8**

Second exam will be on **Thursday, November 5**

Final exam date will be posted with the final exam schedule. **The final is not comprehensive**

## FIRST EXAMINATION –THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9. CHAPTERS 1-4

From the Etruscans to Emperor Nero's death. Students are only responsible for the pictures shown in class. An image outline will be distributed for each part of the course.

Any extra information on the pictures read in the textbook should be added to the notes. It will make studying so much easier. **Reading the textbook is essential to get an A.**

### September, October

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|------------|--|
| 17         | Introduction to the course. Etruscan architecture, painting, and sculpture. Chapter 1  |
| 21, 22, 24 | Roman republican architecture, sculpture, and painting. Chapter 2<br>Architecture at the time of Augustus. Chapter 3         |
| 28, 29, 1  | Sculpture and painting in the Augustan period. Chapter 3<br>Works done for Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. Chapter 4 |

### October

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|---|---|
| 5 | Class discussion and review.  |
| 6 | Possible tour to the <b>Archaeological Museum</b> with students as presenters   |
| 8 | Exam is divided into three parts.<br>First part takes 10 minutes and involves ten slide identifications for 40 points.<br>Students will discuss <b>four</b> of the slides and all the images in them for 40 points.<br>An essay question (with at least three choices ) for a total of 20 points. |

## SECOND EXAMINATION – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5. CHAPTERS 5-8

Material begins with emperor Vespasian, who started the Colosseum, and ends with the death of emperor Commodus.

Students are only responsible for the pictures shown in class. Any extra information on the pictures will be added to the notes. It will make studying so much easier and is essential to get an A.

## October

- 12, 13, 15 Colosseum, Domitian's Stadium, (today's Piazza Navona)  
Arch of Titus and Flavian baroque sculpture. Chapter 5
- 19, 20, 22 Pompeii and Herculaneum. Chapter 5  
Trajan's architecture and sculpture. Chapter 6
- 26 27, 29 Hadrian and the classic revival Chapter 7  
Preview of the trip to Rome

## November

- 2 Students will choose the Roman, Renaissance, and Baroque works (buildings, paintings, sculpture) to present in Rome.
- 3 Review
- 5 Exam. Same format as first one

## CLASS WEEKEND IN ROME NOVEMBER 6- 8

### Friday 6

- 9:30-11:30 **Baths of Diocletian** with Michelangelo's Santa Maria degli Angeli  
**Palazzo Massimo alle Terme** ( Roman sculpture, painting and mosaics ) with students as presenters.
- 12:30-3:30 **Colosseum, Arch of Titus, Roman Forum, Capitoline Museum, Trajan's Markets** with students acting as presenters
- 4:00-6:00 A visit to the **Galleria Borghese** to see paintings by Titian, Caravaggio, and Bernini's sculpture.

### Saturday 7

- 8:30 Group takes the subway towards **Vatican City** and the **Vatican Museums**
- 10:00-12:00 Tour of the Etruscan Early Christian and Roman part of the museum followed by a visit to Raphael's Vatican Rooms, and the Sistine Chapel with students acting as presenters.
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch break
- 1:30-3:30 St. Peter's basilica with students as presenters of the pieces they chose to research.
- The group will then go to the **Spanish steps, Fountain of Trevi, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Gesù** or Jesuit church to see all of Rome's most important sites with students as presenters.

### Sunday 8

- 9:00 Group leaves for **Ostia Antica**
- 10:00-12:00 A visit of the ancient port of Rome with students acting as presenters  
Estimated return to Florence on the 5:30 pm train

## FINAL EXAMINATION - CHAPTERS 9-12 DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Late imperial art from Antoninus Pius to Constantine and the beginnings of Early Christian art. Students are only responsible for the images shown in class. When applicable, the extra information on general characteristics should be included in the test for a perfect score.

## November

- 9, 10, 12 Antonine baroque architecture and sculpture.  
Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus. Chapter 8

A three-four page report on the tour to Rome and your impressions is due on Thursday at the latest.

16, 17, 19 Severan baroque painting, sculpture, architecture. Septimius Severus and Caracalla Chapter 9

23, 24 Soldier emperors Chapter 10  
Baths of Diocletian, Rome; Palace of Diocletian, Split. Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, Arch of Galerius. Chapter 11

### **November, December**

30, 1, 3 Late antique mosaics, and sculpture. Chapter 11  
Arch of Constantine, portraits, Obelisk of Theodosius Chapter 12  
Constantinian architecture, Early Christian art. Chapter 12  
Paper with ten entries due on **Thursday, December 3**

7, 10 Class discussion, review

### **FINAL PROJECT**

Students will discuss **ten** works (architecture, painting, and sculpture), **preferably not discussed in class**, that they have seen in class trips or in their travels through Italy and other countries.

Project is due on **December 3**. The ten entries should be done **gradually** to include works seen in various **sites** (Pompeii, Capri, Rome, Ostia Antica) and **museums** visited in **Italy** and other **countries**. Each entry will be researched and illustrated with pictures, drawings, and/or postcards. Bibliography should include at least five sources using books, not just websites.

If Greek works are chosen, they should be related to Etruscan and Roman periods with strong Greek influences, as explained in class. Renaissance and Baroque works should always be compared to the paintings, buildings, and sculptures done by the Romans.