

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 398: Roman Art and Architecture  
Credits: Credits  
Instructor: Professor Mercedes Carrara



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## OFFICE HOURS

9:30-10:30 MTR or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of Roman art and architecture, starting with the Etruscans and ending with Constantine and the beginnings of Early Christian art.

## 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 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.

**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 the students literate in Ancient Rome. This could also be the first step in the **Renaissance Track**, where the students also get a full immersion in Roman and Medieval History, besides taking 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, not following the Renaissance track.

## GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

Students are graded on three exams and a final paper. They also will be graded on their on site presentations and field trips by keeping a journal with their impressions on the various works and discussing the pieces they presented in the field trips.

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

## **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 9**

Second exam will be on **Thursday, November 6**

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 obtain an A.**

#### **September, October**

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|------------|--|
| 18         | Introduction to the course. Etruscan architecture, painting, and sculpture. Chapter 1  |
| 22, 23, 25 | Roman republican architecture, sculpture, and painting. Chapter 2<br>Architecture at the time of Augustus. Chapter 3         |
| 29, 30, 2  | 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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|---|--|
| 6 | Class discussion and review.   |
| 7 | Tour to the <b>Archaeological Museum</b> with students as presenters |
| 8 | EXAM   |

### **SECOND EXAMINATION – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6. CHAPTERS 5-8**

- Material begins with emperor Vespasian, who started with 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**

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|------------|--|
| 13, 14, 16 | Colosseum, Domitian's Stadium, (today's Piazza Navona)<br>Arch of Titus and Flavian baroque sculpture. Chapter 5 |
| 20, 21, 23 | Pompeii and Herculaneum. Chapter 5<br>Trajan's architecture and sculpture. Chapter 6                             |
| 27, 28, 30 | Hadrian and the classic revival Chapter 7<br>Preview of the trip to Rome   |

#### **November**

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|---|---|
| 3 | Students will choose the buildings, paintings or sculptures they want to present in Rome. |
| 4 | Review  |
| 5 | Exam  |

## CLASS WEEKEND IN ROME NOVEMBER 7- 9

### Friday 7

- 9:30-11:30 **Baths of Diocletian** with Michelangelo's Santa Maria degli Angeli  
**Palazzo Massimo alle Terme** ( Roman sculpture, painting and mosaics )
- 12:30-3:30 **Colosseum, Arch of Titus, Roman Forum, Capitoline Museum, Trajan's Markets**
- After the official tours are over, the group will take a leisurely walk towards the **Pantheon**, the **Gesù** or Jesuit church, **Piazza Navona**, and the **Fountain of Trevi** to see all of Rome's most important sites.

### Saturday 8

- 8:30 Group takes the subway towards **Vatican City** and the **Vatican Museums**
- 10:30-12:30 Tour of the Early Christian and Roman part of the museum with the students acting as presenters.
- 12:30-1:30 After the official tour the group will go towards the Sistine Chapel and Raphael's Vatican Rooms
- 1:30-2:30 Lunch break
- 2:45 – 3:45 A visit to the Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia with the students acting as presenters. Students are then free to explore Rome on their own

### Sunday 9

- 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 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

- 10, 11, 13 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.
- 17, 18, 20 Severan baroque painting, sculpture, architecture. Septimius Severus and Caracalla  
Chapter 9
- 24, 25 Soldier emperors Chapter 10  
Baths of Diocletian, Rome; Palace of Diocletian, Split. Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, Arch of Galerius. Chapter 11

### December

- 1, 2, 4 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 4**
- 9, 11 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 to Italy and other countries.

Project is due on **December 4**. The ten entries should be done **gradually** so as 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, drawing, and/or postcards. Bibliography should include at least five sources.

If Greek works are chosen, they should be related to Etruscan and Roman periods with strong Greek influences, as explained in class.