

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 398 ROMAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Credits 3 Credits

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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 school sponsored weekend trip to Rome will allow students enrolled in the class to see all the works studied through on site lectures. All the museums visited and transportation will be paid for by the school. The cost per student should not exceed 100 -120 euros but the total amount students will be announced in the first week of classes. A week before the trip, each student will choose to act as presenter of **at least three works, a minimum of one a day**, both he/she has either seen in the classroom or in travel documents, 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, the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, and the Jesuit church of Il Gesù among others.).

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. In the track they will also have 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. (80%). They will also be graded on their Rome presentations and field trips by keeping a journal with their impressions on the various works (20%). 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 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 - 49) (F 48—0)

REQUIRED READING

Nancy H. Ramage and Andrew Ramage. *Roman Art*, fourth edition, 2005. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall. The book can be purchased in Florence. There are some copies on reserve in the library that can be checked out.

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 sections with an exam at the end of each section.

First exam will be on **Thursday, October 6.**

Second exam will be on **Thursday, November 3.**

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

FIRST EXAMINATION –THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6. 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 to organize the material chronologically.

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

15 Introduction to the course.

19 Etruscan architecture, painting, and sculpture. Chapter 1

20 Roman republican architecture, sculpture, and painting. Chapter 2

22 Architecture at the time of Augustus. Chapter 3

26 Sculpture and painting in the Augustan period. Chapter 3

27 Works done for the Julio-Claudians

29 Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. Chapter 4

October

3 Class discussion and review.

4 Virtual tour to studied sites with students as presenters.

6 **Exam** is divided into three parts.

First part takes 10 minutes and involves ten slide identifications for 40 points.

Students will discuss **four** of the slides and all the images in them for 40 points.

An essay question (with at least three choices) for a total of 20 points.

SECOND EXAMINATION – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 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

- 10 Colosseum or Flavian Amphitheater
- 11 Domitian's Stadium, (today's Piazza Navona),
- 13 Arch of Titus and Flavian baroque sculpture. Chapter 5

- 17 Pompeii and Herculaneum. Eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Chapter 5
- 18 Emperor Trajan's architecture (Apollodorus of Damascus) Chapter 6
- 20 Column of Trajan, Rome. Arch of Trajan, Benevento. Alcántara Bridge, Spain. Timgad, Algeria. Chapter 6

- 24 Hadrian and the classic revival. Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli. The Pantheon in Rome. Chapter 7.
- 25 Other works commissioned by Hadrian in Rome, Athens, England, Ephesus, Ostia Antica. 26
- 27 Sarcophagi from Rome, Athens, and Asia Minor. Chapter 7.
Students will choose the Roman, Renaissance, and Baroque works (buildings, paintings, sculpture) to present in Rome.

- 31 Preview of the trip to Rome. Review

November

- 1 All Saint's Day. No classes.
- 3 Second exam. Same format of first test

CLASS WEEKEND IN ROME NOVEMBER 4- 6

Friday 4

- 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, Column of Trajan, Trajan's Markets** with students acting as presenters

- 4:30-6:30 **Visit to the Borghese Gallery with students as presenters**

Saturday 5

- 8:30 Group takes the subway to **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 presenting.
- 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.

- 4:00-6:00 The group will then go to the **Spanish steps**, the **Fountain of Trevi**, **Piazza Navona**, the **Pantheon**, the Jesuit church of **Il Gesù** to see all of Rome's most important sites with students as presenters.

Sunday 6

- 9:30 Group leaves for **Ostia Antica**
- 10:30-12:30 A visit of the ancient port of Rome with students as presenters
Estimated return to Florence: 6:00 pm

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

- 7 No Monday class- a break after so many contact hours in Rome.
- 8 Dean Burke's visit to hear the student's impressions negative / positive on the Rome trip.
- 10 Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus. Antonine baroque architecture and sculpture. Chapter 8. A minimum three-four page report on the Rome tour and your impressions

- 14 Septimius Severus' arches in Rome and Leptis Magna, Libya. Chapter 9
- 15 Severan baroque painting, sculpture, architecture.
- 17 Septimius Severus and Caracalla

Chapter 9

- 18 Possible Friday make-up class day. Soldier emperors Chapter 10

- 21 The Tetrarchs Chapter 11
- 22 Baths of Diocletian, Rome; Palace of Diocletian, Split. Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, Arch of Galerius. Chapter 11

November, December

- 28 Arch of Constantine, portraits, Obelisk of Theodosius Chapter 12
- 29 Costantinian architecture, Early Christian art. Chapter 12. Students will choose the pieces they want to present at the Archaeological Museum.
- 1 Paper with ten entries due on **Thursday, December 1**

- 6 Class discussion, review.
- 7 A visit to the Archaeological Museum with students presenting.

FINAL PROJECT

Students will discuss **ten** works (architecture, painting, and sculpture), some **preferably not discussed in class**, that they have seen in class trips or in their travels through Italy and other countries. The works researched and presented in Rome and Florence can be included as entries.

Project is due on **December 1**. 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 that influenced them.