Department of Classical Studies
Course Outline
CS 9354A: Urbanism, Architecture, and Social Ritual in Imperial Rome
AUTUMN 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: Lawson Hall 3227 (661-2111 x 84525)

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30, LAH 3220

REQUIRED TEXTS:


COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In this course we will focus on the monuments, architecture, and the urban planning and design of ancient Imperial Rome, and how the various types of public and private Roman buildings relate to the urban space as a whole. Topics will include Roman construction techniques; urban planning; the urban restructuring of imperial Rome and imperial building programmes; hills and neighborhoods; entertainment centres; and houses and tombs. Although we will look somewhat at questions of building and style, we will always try to locate the architecture in its social space, and a fair amount of the course is dedicated to questions of urban identity, the uses of social space, and enquiries into social ritual.
NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca [under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

WESTERN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: http://accessibility.uwo.ca/

WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

• To become familiar with the main evidence (visual, literary, and archaeological) for urbanism and architecture in Roman antiquity
• To become familiar with modern theories and definitions of urbanism
• have an understanding of the Roman concept of urban space
• have and understanding of urban ritual and the uses of social space
• have examined the physical components of Roman architecture and building design
• To become aware of the problems with and limitations of using ancient archaeological and literary evidence.
• To investigate modern reactions to, interpretations of, and preconceptions about that evidence.
• understand the importance of architecture and cityscapes as both a reflection and a formative influence on a society

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

• an advanced understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and customs and the construction and consumption of material culture (e.g. architecture, sculpture and painting) is a product of time, events and context;
• an understanding of how iconography/symbolism in any historical period may be used *inter alia* to signify cultural identity, political power, state nationalism, and historical memorial

• the ability of critical visual analysis of archaeological evidence, and the results of such analysis, to formulate, develop, and argue an hypothesis/thesis based on this primary evidence;

• a developed understanding of the limits of archaeological evidence in the reconstruction of ancient societies and the restrictions the material record places on our ability to formulate hypotheses and interpretations;

• advanced oral communication skills through the oral presentations of a scholarly argument/hypothesis using the archaeological and written evidence, the ability to lead and direct class discussion, and meet the challenge of questions/criticisms of seminar content;

• to have advanced written communication skills in the clear and organized presentation of an argument/hypothesis within the prescribed limits of the writing assignments; among the basic research skills acquired are the ability to collect relevant bibliography on a prescribed topic, critically engage with the scholarly literature with an assessment of the relative merits of an argument, and write a thesis in a format that includes a clear introductory statement of intent, a well-constructed and logical presentation of the argument including the relative merits of various scholarly opinion, and a conclusion that gives an assessment of the evidence and the author’s own evaluation of the evidence.

**GRADES:**

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (non-cumulative)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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This will be a discussion-based seminar which will require participation from all students.

**ESSAY AND EXAMS:**

- Presentations should be about 15–20 minutes in length.
- Essays should be at least 5000+ words, double-spaced typed pages.
- Your essay should incorporate and address questions, suggestions, and comments raised during your presentation; thus, the essay and presentation are on the same topic.
- We will choose dates for presentations in the first week or two of classes; if you need to cancel or change any of your dates you must find a classmate willing to take your place.
• The two exams will test your knowledge of readings and lectures. The December exam is non-cumulative.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Sept 15:
Materials and Techniques
Reading:
Claridge 37-52

Sept 22:
A. Urban planning in Antiquity: Greeks, Etruscans, and Roman Colonies
Reading:

B. Writing the metropolis
Reading:

Sept 29:
Monumental architecture: the Roman forum and the Palatine
Reading:

The Roman Forum, the upper Via Sacra, and Palatine, Claridge 60-159
Oct 6:
Monumental architecture: the *Ara Pacis Augustae*
Reading:

The *Ara Pacis*, Claridge 207-13

Oct 13:
Monumental architecture: *The Domus Aurea*
Reading:

The *Domus Aurea*, Claridge 326-28

Oct 20:
Rome’s entertainment centres
Reading:
D. Dudley. 1967. ‘Amphitheatrum Flavium or Colosseum,’ in *Urbs Roma*: 142-45
D. Dudley. 1967. ‘Circus Maximus,’ in *Urbs Roma*: 216

The Circus Maximus, Claridge 264
The Circus of Maxentius, Claridge 336
The Stadium and Odeon of Domitian, Claridge 234, 238,
The Naumachia of Augustus, Claridge 60
Flavian Amphitheater, Claridge 312-19

Oct 27:
Triumphs and other rituals of urban identity

- Baths of Trajan, Claridge 324-26
- Baths of Caracalla, Claridge 358-65
- Baths of Diocletian, Claridge 393-96

**Nov 3:**

**A. Houses in Rome**
T. Wiseman. 1987. "*Conspicui postes tectaque digna deo*: the public image of aristocratic and imperial houses in the late Republic and the early Empire,’ in *Historiography and Imagination: Eight Essays on Roman Culture*:

- Republican House, Claridge 117-18
- Housing under San Giovanni e Paolo, Claridge 158-9
- Capitoline Insula, Claridge 263-4
- Farnesina Villa, Claridge 484
- Villa of the Quintilii, Claridge 434-7

**Nov 10:**

**Living in Rome**
A. Scobie. 1986. ‘Slums, Sanitation, and Mortality,’ *Klio* 68: 399-433

- Cloaca Maxima and Shrine of Cloacina, Claridge 64, 71

**Nov 17:**

**Movement and space in ancient Rome**

**Reading:**

Nov 24: **student presentations
Dying in the city of Rome

Tomb of Euryaces, Claridge 385-7
Tomb of Gaius Cestius, Claridge 397-401
Tomb of Caecilia Metella, Claridge 431-2
Catacombs of San Callisto, Claridge 449-51

Dec 1: **student presentations
The rediscovery of Rome
Reading:

Dec 8: **student presentations
Digital tools for the study of ancient Rome
Reading:

And please look at:
Rome Reborn:
http://romereborn.frischerconsulting.com/