

# Classical Studies 3903F

## Roman Art and Archaeology

Course Outline – Fall 2023



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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through the physical objects produced by the ancient Romans that survive today, we can gain a deeper and more tangible understanding of their world. In this course, students will engage with the material culture of the ancient Romans from the city's earliest permanent settlements to the fall of the western Roman Empire. The course will cover material from the city of Rome itself as well as the vast area under Roman influence during imperial times. Students will learn the methods necessary to interpret archaeological sites, art, and everyday objects. By the end of the course, students will have a broad understanding of the progression of Roman history and the role of material culture in it.

Prerequisites: None

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- 1) Understand the progression of Roman history in a general sense
- 2) Be able to identify major ancient Roman archaeological sites and artifacts and explain their significance
- 3) Be able to apply relevant methods to unseen ancient artifacts/sites and interpret them
- 4) Be able to speak about ancient Roman art and archaeology in a nuanced and informed way
- 5) Understand the cultural influences between the ancient Romans and surrounding cultures as they apply to material culture

- 6) Understand the modern history of the discipline and the relevant issues facing modern scholars

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

All texts required for this course are accessible online on OWL.

## **EVALUATIONS**

Classroom Engagement	20%	All term
Annotated Bibliography	10%	October 5 <sup>th</sup>
Artifact/Site Analysis	15%	October 24 <sup>th</sup>
Paper	25%	November 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Final Exam	30%	As scheduled by the university

For all evaluations, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the guidelines and deadlines and to ask any questions they have prior to the due date. If accommodation is needed, it is the student's responsibility to arrange this prior to the assignment's due date.

### **Classroom Engagement**

Classroom engagement grades will be calculated based on the student's level of preparation and participation during classroom discussions and activities. Students are expected to complete the weekly course readings prior to the first class of each week and be prepared to discuss them.

Students will be given a grade from 0-3 for each class meeting, 0 indicating an unexcused absence, 1 present but without participation, 2 some participation, and 3 full, engaged participation. The two lowest class grades will be dropped at the end of the term, meaning that students can miss two lectures without having the zeros count toward their final grade.

Any absences beyond this must receive proper accommodation through email or in-person communication with the instructor or will result in a grade of zero for that class. Accommodation for an absence must be sought within three days of the class unless extreme circumstances prohibit this.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

Students will write an annotated bibliography on a topic of their choosing. This will become the topic of their paper, which must be confirmed with the instructor by the date indicated on the syllabus. Further details on this assignment can be found on OWL in the document "Annotated Bibliography Guidelines".

### **Artifact/Site Analysis**

Students must choose an artifact or site (or specific building/component of a site) that relates to their paper topic. They will write a 3-5 page analysis of the chosen artifact/site. This material,

after editing, should be able to be used in the final paper. Further details on this assignment can be found on OWL in the document “Artifact-Site Analysis Guidelines”.

## **Paper**

Students must write an 8-11 page (double spaced) argumentative essay on their chosen topic. The paper is due at the date and time indicated on the syllabus. The necessary information is posted on OWL in the document “Paper Guidelines”.

## **Final Exam**

The final examination will be scheduled by the university in compliance with university policies. Exam deferrals and missed final exams are regulated by the university. The exam will be cumulative. No aids will be permitted for the final exam.

## **Late Policy/Missed Work**

The same late policy applies to all three at-home assignments (Annotated Bibliography, Artifact/Site Analysis, and Paper). Late assignments will be deducted 5 percent per calendar day late, including weekends, beginning immediately after class on the day the assignment is due, unless accommodation has been granted. The day resets at the time that the assignment was due. For example, anything submitted after 2PM on Tuesday for an assignment with that deadline is one day late. Anything submitted after 2PM Wednesday would be, in this example, two days late.

Requests for accommodation should be directed to the instructor for evaluations worth less than 10%. For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

## **LECTURES**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and take notes. The required readings can be found on OWL and are to be completed prior to the lecture each week. Lecture slides will be posted prior to each class meeting, but do not include all the information covered in lecture and cannot serve as a substitute for attending lecture. Should a student miss a lecture, it is their

responsibility to get notes from a classmate. The instructor will not provide lecture notes to students.

## **OWL**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

I am happy to meet with students who want help succeeding in the course. While I have fixed office hours on Thursdays for those who prefer to be able to drop-in, I am also able to make appointments for other times within the week upon request. Students can arrange to meet on Zoom or in person, at their preference.

## **EMAIL**

I will do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours on weekdays and by the next workday during weekends or holidays (i.e. if you email me after 5 PM on a Friday, you might not get a response until Monday). If I do not respond within this timeframe, feel free to resend your email to ensure a timely response.

Please send all emails through your Western email address to mine. I will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since I cannot verify your identity (and many of these are sorted to spam).

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Accessibility**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Religious Accommodations**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### **Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy ([https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf)), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

### **Academic Offences**

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

All readings are available on OWL. For the modern scholarly sources, students are only required to read the portion of the text that is posted on OWL. For ancient readings, only read the sections listed in the syllabus.

### *Week One*

September 7<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to Roman Art and Archaeology

Readings: None

### *Week Two*

September 12<sup>th</sup>: The Etruscans

September 14<sup>th</sup>: Early Rome

Readings: Brendel 1953 – Prolegomena to a Book on Roman Art

### *Week Three*

September 19<sup>th</sup>: The Republic

September 21<sup>st</sup>: The Roman House **Topic selection deadline**

Readings: Hallett 2005 – Understanding the Roman Nude

### *Week Four*

September 26<sup>th</sup>: Augustan Architecture

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Augustan Art

Readings: Zanker 1989 – The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus  
*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*

### *Week Five*

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Imperial Portraiture

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Relief Sculpture **Annotated bibliographies due on OWL at 11:59 PM**

Readings: Fejfer 2008 – Roman Portraits in Context

### *Week Six*

October 10<sup>th</sup>: Funerary Commemoration

October 12<sup>th</sup>: Epigraphy

Readings: Flower 1996 – Ancestor Masks and Aristocratic Power in Roman Culture  
Polybius, *Histories* 6.53-4

### *Week Seven*

October 17<sup>th</sup>: Numismatics

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Engineering and Technology

Readings: Metcalf 2010 - Numismatics  
Russell 2013 – The Economics of the Roman Stone Trade

***Week Eight***

October 24<sup>th</sup>: Pompeii and Herculaneum **Artifact/Site Analysis due on OWL at 11:59 PM**  
October 26<sup>th</sup>: The Roman Villa and Imperial Residences

Readings: Wallace-Hadrill 1994 – Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum  
Pliny, *Letters* 6.16, 6.20

***October 30<sup>th</sup>-November 5<sup>th</sup>: Reading week; no classes***

***Week Nine***

November 7<sup>th</sup>: Spectacle  
November 9<sup>th</sup>: Baths

Readings: Rose 2005 – Spectators and Spectator Comfort  
Kanz and Grosschmidt 2005 – Head Injuries of Roman Gladiators  
Tacitus, *Annales* 4.62-3

***Week Ten***

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Provincial Life  
November 16<sup>th</sup>: Provincial Portraits

Readings: Borg 2010 – Painted Funerary Portraits  
Kropp and Raja 2014 – The Palmyra Portrait Project

***Week Eleven***

November 21<sup>st</sup>: The Third Century and the Tetrarchy  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Tetrarchic Cities **Paper due on OWL at 11:59 PM**

Readings: Ağtürk 2018 – A New Tetrarchic Relief from Nicomedia

***Week Twelve***

November 28<sup>th</sup>: Christian Art and Archaeology  
November 30<sup>th</sup>: Constantine

Readings: Zanker and Ewald 2012 – Living with Myths  
Pliny, *Letters* 10.96-97

***Week Thirteen***

December 5<sup>th</sup>: The Legacy of Roman Material Culture/Modern Ethics  
December 7<sup>th</sup>: Exam Review

Readings: Ramage 2002 – Restorer and Collector