



Roman Art

ARH 2060

Class: 205 Brownson

T/Fr 12:10-1:25

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T/Fr 9:20-10:35

Course Description: This course offers a detailed study of Roman civilization through its artistic and architectural monuments, from the time of the Etruscans to the fall of the Roman Empire. Topics to be studied include the cultural legacy of the Etruscans, the impact of Greek art and architecture on Republican and Imperial Rome, the houses and painting preserved by Mt. Vesuvius (Pompeii, Herculaneum), Augustan Rome, the monuments of Trajan and Hadrian, the era of Constantine and the Late Antique style.

Course Objectives: The aims of this course are multiple. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Use basic art historical terminology correctly.
- Identify major monuments, artists, periods and characteristics of the artistic production of the Italic peninsula from ca. 700 BCE-400 CE
- Apply knowledge of the above art historical periods and styles to identify previously unknown works of art.
- Compare/contrast Roman monuments/works of art in a way that articulates their similarities and differences in terms of subject, style, context, function and patronage.
- Articulate the relationship between the monuments and objects produced in a particular period of Roman History and the religious, political, social and economic circumstances of their production.
- Read carefully and apply primary source texts to the interpretation of works of Roman Art.
- Write a short analytical paper on a work of Roman Art in The Metropolitan Museum of Art that addresses the following questions: What role did the object play in Roman culture? Who would have seen it? What is the significance of its material and decoration? What “message” was the object intended to transmit to its intended audience? How does the way it looks help it accomplish this task?
- As part of a small group, develop and deliver a brief oral presentation using appropriate projection technology.

Course Management and Communication: All students are required to enroll in this course's Blackboard page, accessible through the Manhattanville library web portal. All course materials will be posted there, and it will be updated frequently. Your enrollment allows me to contact all of you by email in the event of an important announcement or scheduling issue, and it allows you to access your grades in the course.

Classroom Policies:

- **Attendance** is crucial to your success in the mastery of visual material, moreover, lectures will not precisely duplicate the texts. As learning is an interactive experience, active **participation** in class discussions is a requirement of this class and will be graded.
- **Absence from an exam** will be excused only for reasons of illness or emergency, and only if accompanied by a letter from the Office of Academic Advising. If the absence is excused, no grade will be recorded. If absence is unexcused, a failing grade will be recorded. No make-ups will be given in either case.
- **We are adults**, and it is expected that while in class you will conduct yourself accordingly. Please silence cell phones, refrain from texting, etc., for the duration of class.
- If you are entitled to special **accommodations** for exam taking (such as extended time), it is your responsibility to inform the professors of your needs. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements with ARC and/or the HELP center, and to submit the proper paperwork that will allow for arrangements to be made. Requests for special accommodations made less than one week before an exam cannot be granted. Requests for special accommodations not made through official channels will not be granted.
- You are expected to be aware of, and to conduct yourselves in accordance with the rules regarding **academic integrity**, in particular the prohibitions against plagiarism and cheating, found in the Manhattanville College Code of Conduct. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to College officials. **If confirmed, academic dishonesty in this course will result in a failing grade for the course.** Additional sanctions may also be imposed by the Provost.

Exam Formats:

Exam One: The first exam will consist of three parts:

- Part One: Identifications. I will show you a monument/work of art from the list of required images, and you will provide the following, *in list form*:
 - *Descriptive Title*
 - *Culture* (Etruscan or Roman)
 - *Period/Dynasty*
 - *Ruler and Date*
 - *Patron* (if known)

- *Geographical/Archaeological/Architectural Context* (Original location/setting)
 - *Function* (Why was it created?)
 - *Significance* (Should be at least three sentences long, and should attempt to address for what audience the object was intended, what message was it designed to send, and how did the way it looked enable it to do so)
- Part Two: Essay I will give you a choice of two or three topics on which to write a short essay.
 - Part Three: Unknowns. I will show you monuments/works of art that you have not seen in class, and you will answer the following questions:
 - When and where do you think this work of art was created? Why?
 - Which of the required images does it most closely resemble? How?

Exam Two: The second exam will consist of three parts:

- Part One: Identifications. *See above.*
- Part Two: Unknowns. I will show you monuments/works of art that you have not seen in class, and you will answer the following questions:
 - When and where do you think this work of art was created? Why?
 - Which of the required images does it most closely resemble? How?
- Part Three: Compare/Contrast essays: I will show you a pair of images, for which you will do the following:
 - Provide identifying information as above (IN LIST FORM)
 - Write an essay comparing and contrasting the two, particularly in terms of the following: Style, Function, Context, Subject Matter, Message, Audience, Patronage
 - Remember, comparisons include discussion of both *similarities* and *differences*, and *must* discuss the reason why the two objects are being compared, and what point is made by the comparison

Exam Three: The third exam will consist of 3-4 pairs of images, for which you will write compare/contrast essays, as detailed above.

Study Tips: If this is your first Art History course, you may be unsure about how to prepare for exams. The exams are intended to test both your **knowledge** of the material, and the **analytical skills** you are developing. As far as preparing for the knowledge piece, most students in Art History courses find it useful to make *flashcards*

for the required images. Print out the images from Artstor, and on the back, write all of the necessary information. Figuring out the “significance” of each work requires you to analyze the works of art and consider them within their cultural context. We will be practicing this skill in class, so the more you participate, the better prepared you will be. The same is true for the comparative essays—we will be making comparisons in class, so you’ll have plenty of time to practice.

Required Images: The works of art for which you will be held responsible on exams are located in folders in this course's folder on ArtStor. You can access these images by going to the Manhattanville Library web portal, selecting Databases, and then ArtStor. The folders can be located under "ARH 2060." If you need help accessing these materials, a librarian will be happy to assist you. Please note: Do not rely on the information (date, period, etc.) supplied by Artstor. Use your textbook instead.

Texts: The following texts are required for this course. You may purchase them, or used the copies that are on reserve in the library. Reading assignments will be listed on a separate assignment sheet. Assigned readings must be completed before the class indicated.

A & N. Ramage, *Roman Art-Romulus to Constantine*, Prentice Hall, 3nd. ed.

E. D' Ambra, *Roman Art*, Cambridge University Press, 1999

D. Kleiner, *Roman Sculpture*, 1994

Grading: A student's final grade will be based on five grades weighted according to the following scale:

- 15% Attendance and Participation
- 20% First Exam
- 20% Second Exam
- 25% Third Exam
- 20% Paper

Paper Assignment: To be discussed in class.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENT

1/20 *Introduction*

1/23 *Background: Greek Art and Architecture and the Colonization of Italy.
Ramage, Introduction*

1/27 *Background: The Villanovans and the Etruscans
Ramage, Chapter 1*

1/30 *Background: Roman Life*

2/3 *Republican Portraiture and Commemorative Art
Kleiner Chapter 1
Ramage Chapter 2*

2/6 *Republican Rome: Architecture and Urban Planning
Ramage Chapter 2*

2/10 *Class Canceled*

2/13 *The Age of Augustus: Architecture
Kleiner, 130-160 (Covers through first exam)
Ramage Chapter 3*

2/14 *POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP/SAVE THE DATE*

2/17 *The Age of Augustus: Sculpture and Painting
Ramage Chapter 3
Kleiner, 130-160 (Covers through first exam)*

2/20 *The Julio-Claudian Dynasty: Imperial Patronage and Architecture
Ramage Chapter 4
Kleiner, 130-160 (Covers through first exam)*

2/24 *First Exam*

2/27 *Flavian Art and Architecture
Ramage, ch. 5, Kleiner, 171-178, 183-191*

3/3 *Trajanic Rome
Ramage, Ch. 6; Kleiner, 212-233*

3/6 Class Canceled

3/17 Rome in the Age of Hadrian: The Classical Revival: Architecture
Ramage, Ch. 7; Kleiner, 237-262

3/20 Rome in the Age of Hadrian: The Classical Revival: Sculpture + second century sarcophagi
Papers Due

3/24 The Antonine Emperors
Ramage, Ch. 8; Kleiner, Ch. 6

3/27 Catch Up/Review

3/31 Second Exam

4/1 Severan Art and Architecture
Ramage Chapter 9, Kleiner Ch. 7

4/5 Reign of Caracalla
Ramage Chapter 9, Kleiner Ch. 7

4/8 The Late Empire: Continuity and Change
Ramage Chapter 10, Kleiner Ch. 8

4/12 The Late Empire: Continuity and Change
Ramage Chapter 10, Kleiner Ch. 8

4/15 The Soldier Emperors
Ramage Chapter 10, Kleiner Ch. 8

4/19 The Tetrarchy
Ramage Chapter 11, Kleiner Ch. 9

4/22 Constantine
Ramage Chapter 11, Kleiner Ch10

4/26 Early Christian Rome

4/29 Catch Up/Review

5/1 Third Exam