

Description

This course is a chronological introduction to the art, architecture, and archaeology of the ancient Roman world from the Republic to the time of Constantine. We will investigate what the Romans themselves considered “art” to be and how to historically contextualize the variety of Roman visual culture, including not only sculpture and architecture, but also fresco painting, coins, gemstones, and urban infrastructure and design.

Other topics to be considered include the propagandistic and ideological use of visual culture by Roman emperors, issues of gender and class in private patronage, domestic architecture, funerary art, and the art of the Roman provinces.

Students will also read current scholarly literature and learn to read and analyze art historical and archaeological writing. These skills will be developed through a series of brief, written abstracts of articles and a longer research paper.

In short, this course provides students with the art historical vocabulary, critical skills, and visual literacy to analyze ancient Roman monuments within a historical context.

Required books

F. S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*.
P. Stewart, *The Social History of Roman Art*.
C. Kelly, *The Roman Empire: A Very Short Introduction*.

Important dates

February 6: Lecture by Professor Bettina Bergmann, 7PM, Blount Auditorium; response due February 9.

February 16: Exam 1

February 21: Research paper topics due

March 1: Abstract 1 due

March 20: Quiz 1 (topography of Rome)

March 27: Quiz 2 (vocabulary)

April 3: Research papers due

April 19: Abstract 2 due

May 1, 1pm: Final exam

Contact Professor Tronchin

tronchinf@rhodes.edu

Clough 412

Office hours: TTh 1:30-3:00pm and by appointment

Course requirements

All students are required to read the assignments for each class meeting. Please complete the **reading** assignment before class, as you are expected to be able to discuss this material during class time. The material you will be tested on comes from both the readings and from class lecture.

Some of the readings outside the textbooks will be difficult, but students are not meant to master all the final points of each assignment; do your best to get a grasp of the main points of each reading.

Each week there is an assigned reading from outside the textbook (a journal article or chapter from a scholarly book). Students will write an **abstract on two** of these readings--a summary which outlines the main points of the reading, notes the methodology employed by the author, and briefly compiles the evidence used to support the thesis. These abstracts will be no more than 250 words. More details about the abstracts will be presented in class.

There will be **two exams**—a midterm and a final. The exams will be comprised of short answer questions and slide identifications. The final exam will be cumulative, yet weighted toward material covered in the second half of the semester.

There will be **two short quizzes** given in class regarding the topography of Rome (a map quiz) and vocabulary. A list of sites/terms will be provided well before the dates of the quizzes.

All students will complete a **research paper** on a single monument, site, or work of art from the geographical and chronological parameters of the course. The paper will address the iconography, style, and scholarly controversies related to the subject. The paper will be about 1250-1750 words and is due on **April 3**. Further details about this assignment will be given out well before the due date.

Response to Prof. Bergmann's lecture

All students will attend the lecture on the evening of February 6 and write a 250-500-word summary of and response to the presentation. Due in class February 9.

Evaluation/basis of grading

Response, Prof. Bergmann lecture: 5%

Quiz 1, vocabulary: 10%

Quiz 2, map of Rome: 10%

Exam 1: 15%

Article abstracts: 20% (10% each)

Research paper: 20%

Final exam: 20%

Course schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: January 12

Introduction to the course, introduction to Roman art, architecture, and archaeology

Reading: Kelly, Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 2: January 17 & 19

Introduction continued; Early Rome

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 1; Kelly, Chapter 2

Week 3: January 24 & 26

The Republic: Public monuments

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 4 ; Stewart, Chapter 1

Alexandridis, "Neutral Bodies" (PDF)

Week 4: January 31 & February 2

The Republic: Domestic architecture and decoration

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 3; Stewart, Chapter 2

Allison, "Using the Material and the Written Sources: Turn of the Millennium Approaches to Roman Domestic Space" (PDF)

Week 5: February 7 & 9

Augustan Rome

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 5; Stewart, Chapter 3

Zanker, "Rival Images" (PDF)

Week 6: February 14 & 16

≥February 16: Exam 1

Early Imperial Art

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 6

Favro, "Making Rome a World City" (PDF)

Week 7: February 21 & 23

≥February 21: Research paper topics due

Art and Architecture under the Julio-Claudian and Flavian Dynasties

Readings : Kleiner, Chapters 7-9; Stewart, Chapter 4

Welch, "Canonization of the Amphitheatre Building Type" (PDF)

Week 8: February 28 & March 1

≥March 1: Abstract 1 due

City planning and domestic architecture at Pompeii and Herculaneum

Readings: Kleiner, Chapters 2 & 10; Kelly, Chapter 6

Moormann, "Villas Surrounding Pompeii and Herculaneum" (PDF)

Week 9: March 6 & 8

Trajan and Hadrian

Readings: Kleiner, Chapters 11-12

Clarke, "Augustus's and Trajan's Messages to Commoners" (PDF)

[Spring Break]

Week 10: March 20 & 22

≥March 20: Topography of Rome quiz

Hadrian and the Antonine Dynasty

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 13

MacDonald, "The Problem of Meaning" (PDF)

Week 11: March 27 & 29

≥March 27: Vocabulary quiz

The Severan Dynasty; Roman styles throughout the Empire

Readings: Kleiner, Chapters 14-17; Kelly, Chapter 3; Stewart, Chapter 5

Scott, "Understanding Approaches to Roman Provincial Art" (PDF)

Week 12: April 3

≥Research papers due April 3

The Third Century

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 18

Kampen, "On Writing Histories of Roman Art" (PDF)

[Easter Break]

Week 13: April 10 & 12

The Tetrarchy

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 19

Marlowe, "The Arch of Constantine and the Roman Cityscape" (PDF)

Week 14: April 17 & 19

≥April 19: Abstract 2 due

Constantine and Late Antiquity

Readings: Kleiner, Chapter 20; Kelly, Chapter 5

Ellis, "How the Late Roman Aristocrat Appeared to his Guests" (PDF)

Week 15: April 24

Conclusions

Reading: Kelly, Chapter 7

Policies

Attendance policy, make-up exams, and extensions

Class attendance is *essential* for your understanding of the material. Monuments and objects not pictured or discussed in the textbook will frequently be addressed in class, so presence in lecture will be beneficial to your grade. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, especially at the beginning of the semester so that Professor Tronchin can get to know you. Participation in class discussions is also a significant part of your grade.

Students with extracurricular activities (athletics, mock trial, etc.) that will require them to miss one or more classes during the semester should speak to Prof. Tronchin **before** anticipated absences.

Make-up exams are only allowed *under compelling circumstances* (e.g., a death in the family) or in the case of illness. In the event of the latter, excused absences will be granted only with a physician's note. Please plan your semester wisely as make-up exams will not be granted for students leaving early for vacations or traveling for weddings, for example.

Extensions for paper assignments will only be granted under compelling circumstances and **before** the due date of the paper.

Academic Integrity and the Honor Code

All work for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. Plagiarism in particular will not be tolerated. If you have questions about plagiarism, please speak to Prof. Tronchin.

Technology Policy

A TRUTH: Technology breaks. Servers go down, formats are not compatible, files become corrupt. The list goes on. These are not considered emergencies. They are part of the normal production process. Protect yourself by managing your time and backing up your work. Do not trust your computer to function correctly at the last minute! Technological malfunctions will not be accepted as an excuse for late work.

Contacting Prof. Tronchin

When emailing Professor Tronchin, please include **ART319** in the subject line of your email. Treat emails to **all** your professors as professional correspondence; please use proper grammar, spelling, salutations & sign-offs.

Do not hesitate to schedule an appointment outside of office hours.

Courtesy policies

- To avoid disturbing your classmates and instructor, please observe the following policies:
- Arrive to class on time.
- Please set all cell phones and other communication devices to a silent mode. Any student responding to a cell phone call while in class will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return to that class meeting. No texting during class. (Seriously; I can see you).
- Using laptop computers is permitted in class. Using such a computer for IMing, gaming, Facebook, etc. is not allowed.
- Drinking (water, coffee) is permitted in class; eating is not.
- Be respectful of other points of view expressed by your fellow classmates.
- Be present—in both mind & body—at class meetings. You will get a much better rest in a bed than at your desk during a lecture. In other words: no sleeping in class.
- A good grade in this course comes from hard work, not from just showing up.

Suggestions for success in this course (and others)

- Keep up with reading assignments.
- Spend time looking at the artworks included in the reading assignments and review material on a weekly basis. In other words: don't plan to cram the night before the exam.
- Begin written assignments early. Begin research *well* ahead of the due date.
- Exchange email addresses or phone numbers with a few classmates; arrange a study group.
- Take advantage of instructor's office hours.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or clarify points during class meetings.

Special Needs

If a student has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form *as soon as possible*.

Safe Zone

Professor Tronchin, her classrooms, and her office are Safe Zones. See the following page if you are unfamiliar with Safe Zones on the Rhodes campus:

<http://www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/11503.asp>. Please do not hesitate to speak with Prof. Tronchin about LGBTIQ issues.