

**ART 265: The Social Life of Roman Sculpture**

Spring 2011  
Clough Hall 417  
MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm

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Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 – 11:00  
am, or by appointment

**Course description**

This course will present the history of Roman sculpture from the Republic to the Early Christian period (ca. 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE – 4<sup>th</sup> century CE) and will address a broad range of contexts and functions: funerary, political, domestic, religious, etc. Genres of sculpture to be covered are portraiture (both Imperial and private), major public monuments with relief and freestanding sculptural decoration, funerary sculpture, and smaller works like cameos, coins, and metal vases with relief decoration.

The primary aim of the course is to examine sculpture's various roles in ancient society and the impact that different types of sculpture might have had on the ancient population. By reading ancient texts (in translation) and recent research on Roman sculpture, we will examine the eclectic styles of this material as well as its tremendously varied uses and meanings. By approaching Roman sculpture as a code of communication, this course will bring new life to familiar portraits, historical relief, and garden statuary.

**Some topics to be discussed:**

The development of Roman sculpture and its reliance on Greek and Italic prototypes; the eclectic nature of Roman sculpture  
Uniquely Roman contributions to classical visual culture like portraiture and historical relief.  
The role of Roman sculpture in the spread of the Empire; Imperial patronage.  
The transition from classically-inspired forms to the more abstract styles of Late Antique sculpture.  
Problems in interpreting Roman sculpture. Historiography of Roman sculpture.  
The status of "art" and "artist" in the Roman world.

**TEXTBOOK and other resources**

Diana Kleiner, *Roman Sculpture* (Yale, 1992).

For those of you who need a refresher on Roman art in general, Fred Kleiner's *A History of Roman Art* is available as a recommended text at the bookstore.

Additional readings will be provided to the students in PDF format through the course folder.

### **Course requirements and grading**

The requirements of this course are regular, punctual attendance, regular participation in class discussion, the completion of each day's reading assignment prior to the class meeting, and the completion of all assignments and exams by the date indicated here on the syllabus.

There will be **two exams**—one during the term and one during the final exam period (see course schedule below for dates and times). The exams will be comprised of slide identification and discussion, compare and contrast, short essay, and connoisseurship questions. *The exams are closed-book and are not cumulative* (i.e., the final covers the material from the class after the midterm to the last day of class). More details about the exams will be presented in class.

The exam material comes from class lectures, class discussion, and reading assignments.

There will be **two short** (5-10 minute) **quizzes** given in class regarding chronology and art historical vocabulary. A list of terms will be provided well before the dates of the quizzes.

All students will complete a **research paper** on a single monument of Roman sculpture, addressing the iconography, style, and scholarly controversies related to the piece. The paper will be about 1250-1750 words and is due on **Friday, April 29**. Further details about the paper assignment will be given out well before the due date.

Students will pair up to lead a **discussion** of a reading assignment—an article or book chapter outside the textbook—as noted in the class schedule. Students will meet with Dr. Tronchin during office hours (or other scheduled appointment) to prepare a set of 4-5 reading questions which will be then submitted to the professor as an electronic document (email of text doc) by noon Wednesday the week of the discussion. Dr. Tronchin will then email these questions to the rest of the students on Wednesday evening. In class on Friday, the students will be responsible for leading the discussion on the reading assignment. The content of the discussions and readings will be included in the exams.

### **Evaluation/Basis of grading**

10%	Quizzes
25%	Research paper
20%	Discussion leading & Participation
20%	Midterm Exam
25%	Final exam

If at any point in the semester you are concerned about your grade, please contact Professor Tronchin to receive an estimated evaluation of your standing.

### **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.

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 written assignments will only be granted under compelling circumstances and *before* the due date.

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.

### **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.

### **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. It is distracting to both your professor and your fellow students.
- 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.
- Exchange email addresses or phone numbers with a few classmates; arrange a study group.
- Take advantage of instructor's office hours, yet don't expect a personalized re-cap of lectures.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or clarify points during class meetings.
- Observe e-mail etiquette in your messages to your professor. Treat messages as formal letters and proofread them before sending.

### **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*.

**Course schedule** (subject to change)

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
	<p><b>January 12</b> Introduction to the course</p> <p>Kleiner 1-17</p>	<p><b>January 14</b> Chronological overview of Roman sculpture</p> <p>Kleiner 1-17</p>
<p><b>January 17</b></p> <p><b>NO CLASS – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. DAY</b></p>	<p><b>January 19</b> The sites and functions of Roman sculpture</p> <p>Smith, “What were all those statues for?”</p>	<p><b>January 21</b> The Roman Republic I</p> <p>Kleiner 23-47</p>
<p><b>January 24</b> The Roman Republic II</p> <p>Kleiner 47-57</p>	<p><b>January 26</b> Portraiture of the Augustan Age I</p> <p>Kleiner 59-69</p>	<p><b>January 28</b></p> <p>Discussion: Eve D’Ambra, “Portraiture and Commemoration”</p>
<p><b>January 31</b> Portraiture of the Augustan Age</p> <p>Kleiner 69-81</p>	<p><b>February 2</b> Augustan State Relief Sculpture</p> <p>Kleiner 81-103</p>	<p><b>February 4</b></p> <p>Discussion: Sheldon Nodelman, “How to Read a Roman Portrait”</p>
<p><b>February 7</b> Other public sculpture of the Augustan Age</p> <p>Kleiner 103-120</p>	<p><b>February 9</b> Portraiture of the Julio-Claudian Dynasty</p> <p>Kleiner 123-141</p>	<p><b>February 13</b> Portraiture of the Julio-Claudian Dynasty</p> <p>Kleiner 123-141</p>
<p><b>February 14</b> Julio-Claudian State Relief Sculpture</p> <p>Kleiner 141-156</p>	<p><b>February 16</b> Other Julio-Claudian Relief Sculpture</p> <p>Kleiner 156-165</p> <p>CHRONOLOGY QUIZ</p>	<p><b>February 18</b> The Civil War of 68-69 and Flavian Portraiture</p> <p>Kleiner 167-177</p>
<p><b>February 21</b> Flavian Female Portraiture</p> <p>Kleiner 177-183</p>	<p><b>February 23</b> Flavian Relief Sculpture</p> <p>Kleiner 183-199, 202-203</p>	<p><b>February 25</b> Midterm review</p>

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
<b>February 28</b>  MIDTERM EXAM	<b>March 2</b> Portraiture of Nerva and Trajan  Kleiner 199-201, 207-212	<b>March 4</b> Trajanic Relief Sculpture  Kleiner 212-224
<b>March 7</b> Trajanic Relief Sculpture  Kleiner 224-229	<b>March 9</b> Provincial & Freedmen Sculpture of the Early Second Century  Kleiner 230-236	<b>March 11</b>  Discussion: Mary Beard & John Henderson, "Moving Statues: Art in the Age of Imitation"
<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>ENJOY!</b>
<b>March 21</b> Hadrianic portraiture  Kleiner 237-247	<b>March 23</b> Hadrianic State Relief  Kleiner 248-256	<b>March 25</b> Hadrianic Funerary Sculpture  Kleiner 256-263
<b>March 28</b> Antonine Portraiture  Kleiner 267-283	<b>March 30</b> Antonine State Relief  Kleiner 283-300	<b>April 2</b>  Discussion: Peter Stewart, "Statues in the Empire"
<b>April 4</b> Antonine Funerary Sculpture  Kleiner 301-313	<b>April 6</b> Severan Portraiture  Kleiner 317-429	<b>April 8</b> No class: Prof. Tronchin at a conference
<b>April 11</b> Severan State Relief  Kleiner 329-353	<b>April 13</b> The Soldier Emperors  Kleiner 357-395  VOCABULARY QUIZ	<b>April 15</b>  Discussion: John Clarke, "The All-seeing Emperor and Ordinary Viewers: Marcus Aurelius and Constantine"
<b>April 18</b> Sculpture Under the Tetrarchy  Kleiner 399-413	<b>April 20</b>  NO CLASS – EASTER RECESS	<b>April 22</b>  NO CLASS – EASTER RECESS

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
<b>April 25</b> Sculpture Under the Tetrarchy  Kleiner 413-428	<b>April 27</b> Portraiture of Constantine  Kleiner 431-444	<b>April 29</b> Constantinian Relief  Kleiner 444-464  <b>PAPERS DUE</b>
	<b>TUESDAY, MAY 3</b>  FINAL EXAM: 8:30 AM	