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ART 319-01, Roman Art and Architecture, Spring 2006

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Roman Art and Architecture

ART 319, Spring 2006
Dr. Glenda Swan
Office: Clough 412

T Th 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Phone 843-3140 or Email SwanG@rhodes.edu
Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description and Goals

This course will survey the main periods and works of Roman art and architecture, employing a variety of interpretative strategies to the works. The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of what motivated Roman artistic production and how the ancient Romans interpreted and used those works.

Required Materials

Nancy Ramage and Andrew Ramage, *Roman Art*, 4th Edition (Prentice Hall 2005).
Two bluebooks, available at the campus bookstore, will be required for exams.
*Also, note that some useful texts on Roman architecture, sculpture, painting and mosaics have also been placed on course reserves at the Rhodes Library.

Evaluation

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
Midterm (Thursday, March 2nd): 30%
Paper (see schedule, but final paper due at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11th): 30%
Final (Monday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m.): 30%

Grading

All work is evaluated on the grading scale outlined in the Rhodes College Catalogue: A, excellent; B, good; C, satisfactory; D, passing; and F, failure (with pluses and minuses where appropriate). The American Heritage Dictionary definition of “excellent” highlights its rarefied state, defining it as something “of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind.” Thus, only a student that demonstrates a real command of the subject, integrating and even extrapolating from the course materials to craft creative and compelling arguments that are articulated and supported in a consistently outstanding manner will earn an A; while excellent students typically dedicate significant time and effort to their coursework, only the *results* of that time and effort are evaluated.

Attendance and Participation

In order for students to make meaningful contributions to class discussion, it is expected that *all assigned readings will be completed in advance* of the week in which they will be addressed, as outlined in the “Weekly Topics and Readings” section. The professor reserves the right to use a variety of methods to evaluate student participation and preparation for class. Such methods include – but are not limited to – unannounced quizzes, in-class exercises, short take-home assignments and/or having a randomly chosen student answer a particular question in class or even lead class discussion; some of these methods may be graded by the professor or fellow students, while others are not formally graded at all; all are intended to help students prepare for the format and content of the exam. While there is no strictly applied mathematical formula that corresponds to student success in such events, repeated failures clearly demonstrate a lack of meaningful engagement with course material that will be reflected in a student’s participation grade.

Of course, students cannot participate in class in any way if they are not present. Therefore, students will be monitored in regard to their *regular and prompt attendance* in class. Because late arrival is so disruptive to a discussion class, any student arriving more than five minutes late to class will be marked late, which will effectively count as half of an absence. Occasionally, a student may find that some compelling need arises that causes them to miss class completely; such matters are at the discretion of the student and the professor requires no explanation. However, missing more than two classes will result in a five-point deduction in the student's final attendance and participation grade, with every additional absence thereafter resulting in an additional one-point deduction.

If the student has a serious illness or other crisis that will cause the student to miss class, it is important to promptly notify the professor and *be prepared to provide written documentation* upon the student's return. If the professor feels that the absences were unavoidable, any missed classes will be considered as *excused* when they are figured into the attendance portion of the final grade.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the student to stay current with the course. Students are responsible for all of the lecture and discussion material presented in class, as well as any audio-visual materials shown. However, these are all one-time only events: none of these materials will be repeated. Therefore, if you are absent – even if your absence is “excused” – *you should first contact other students for notes and then read about that material in the text*. If any of the missed material still remains unclear to you, contact the professor, who will then be pleased to answer any lingering questions.

Late Work and Missed Exams

Any required materials that are *not turned in at the start of the class* for which they are due are immediately *lowered by five points*. Further late materials are lowered by ten points for each day after the due date; no late papers will be accepted more than four days after the original deadline. No electronic submissions of work are accepted.

Make-up exams are given only at the discretion of the professor. In addition to *timely notification*, the professor *may require written documentation* from the student before allowing a student to attend a make-up exam. If the student has a valid, documented excuse that causes them to miss a substantial portion of the course, such as an extended hospital stay, the professor may then decide to remove an exam or paper from the evaluation method of the course, effectively increasing the percentage value of the other course requirements. Incompletes are very rarely allowed.

Computer Use

Several different elements of the course require computer access. Course documents are available through the professor's virtual class folder, which is located on the **Art Department fileserv** on the Rhodes website (consult ITS for information on how to access this on and off campus). Required journal readings can be accessed through the “Knowledge Portal” of the Rhodes College Library as part of the collection of “Online Journals in Licensed Databases.” Other useful sites may include: Perseus Project (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>); FORVM ANTIQVVM (<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~ekondrat/rome.html>); LacusCurtius (<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html>); Diotima, Materials for Study of Women and Gender in the Ancient World (<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/>); CAA E-citation guide (<http://www.collegeart.org/caa/news/2004/March/ProperCitation.html>); or the Rhodes Writing Center (<http://www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter/>).

Possible Objectionable Material

This class includes images that contain nudity, violence, and other imagery that may be offensive to some viewers. If you are unwilling to examine and discuss such works in an academic context then you should reconsider enrollment in this course.

Academic Honesty

All work in this course must be completed in accordance with the Honor System at Rhodes College. In keeping with this policy, students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on every exam and paper submitted for this course.

Special Needs

If a student has a documented disability and which 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*.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS (Subject to Change)

Note that all readings should be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned!

Week One

Thursday, January 12: Introduction to the Course

Week Two

- Ramage: Chapter 1
- E-Journal: Anthony Tuck, "The Etruscan Seated Banquet: Villanovan Ritual and Etruscan Iconography" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 98, No. 4 (Oct., 1994), pp. 617-628.

Tuesday, January 17

Thursday, January 19

Week Three

- Ramage: Begin Chapter 2
- E-Journal: Alice T. Christ, "The Masculine Ideal of 'the Race That Wears the Toga'" *Art Journal* Vol. 56, No. 2 (Summer 1997), pp. 24-30.

Tuesday, January 24

Thursday, January 26: **BIBLIOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATIONS DUE**

Week Four

- Ramage: Finish Chapter 2 and Begin Chapter 3
- E-Journal: Bettina Bergmann, "Greek Masterpieces and Roman Recreative Fictions" *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* Vol. 97 (1995) pp. 79-120.

Tuesday, January 31

Thursday, February 2

Week Five

- Ramage: Finish Chapter 3
- Online: Read selections from Augustus' Res Gestae at <http://duke.usask.ca/~porterj/DeptTransls/ResGest.html>

Tuesday, February 7

Thursday, February 9: **TOPIC DUE**

Week Six

- Ramage: Chapter 4
- E-Journal: Susan Wood, "Diva Drusilla Panthea and the Sisters of Caligula" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 99, No. 3 (Jul. 1995), pp. 457-482.

Tuesday, February 14

Thursday, February 16

Week Seven

- Ramage: Chapter 5
- In Academic Listserver Course Folder: Eve D'Ambra, "The Calculus of Venus: Nude Portraits of Roman Women," in N. Kampen ed., *Sexuality in Ancient Art: Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Italy* (1996) 219-232.

Tuesday, February 21

Thursday, February 23

Week Eight

Tuesday, February 28: Review

Thursday, March 2: **MIDTERM**

Week Nine

Tuesday, March 7: **THESIS DUE**

Thursday, March 9: Discuss Exam

Week Ten

- Ramage: Chapter 6
- E-Journal: Penelope J. E. Davies, "The Politics of Perpetuation: Trajan's Column and the Art of Commemoration" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 101, No. 1 (Jan. 1997), pp. 41-65.

Tuesday, March 21

Thursday, March 23: **OUTLINE DUE**

Week Eleven

- Ramage: Chapter 7
- E-Journal: Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, "The Iconography of Sacred Space: A Suggested Reading of the Meaning of the Roman Pantheon" *Artibus et Historiae* Vol. 19, No. 38 (1998), pp. 21-42.

Tuesday, March 28

Thursday, March 30

Week Twelve

- Ramage: Chapter 8
- E-Journal: Robert Hannah, "The Emperor's Stars: The Conservatori Portrait of Commodus" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 90, No. 3 (Jul. 1986), pp. 337-342.

Tuesday, April 4

Thursday, April 6

Week Thirteen

- Ramage: Chapter 9

Tuesday, April 11: **PAPER DUE**

Week Fourteen

- Ramage: Chapters 10 and 11

Tuesday, April 18

Thursday, April 20

Week Fifteen

- Ramage: Chapter 12

Tuesday, April 25

Thursday, April 27

Final Exam: Monday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m.