**Description:** Spanning the Mediterranean basin and extending into Europe and North Africa, the Roman Empire included a wide variety of urban spaces. In this course, we will examine three cities on the Italian peninsula—Rome, Ostia, and Pompeii—which offer examples of traditional architectural form and urban development. Rome, as capital of the empire, establishes prototypical monuments which are exported outward. Ostia, port city of Rome, reflects the developments in architecture and design in the capital but as a working-class city offers insight into different strata of Roman society. Finally, Pompeii reflects the wealth of an elite resort community embedded in a small-scale urban environment. By examining the individual architectural elements and organization of these three ancient cities, we will observe the standard forms of urban *Romanitas* (“Roman-ness”) and its significant variations. Please note that this course will focus on architecture and architectural decoration as well as concepts of urban planning and design. The course is not intended as a broad survey of Roman art. Also be aware that as a 300 level course, we will move at a fast pace and focus on precise, detailed readings of the material: exams will require a thorough understanding of specific information rather than “general” impressions.

**Objectives:**
- Gain an understanding of the Roman concept of urban space
- Learn the major building types common to Roman cities
- Examine the physical components of Roman architecture and building design
- Integrate elements such as fresco painting and sculpture into the physical fabric of architecture and urban space
- Understand the importance of architecture and cityscapes as both a reflection and a formative influence on a society

**Texts and Resources:**

Philip Matyszak, *Ancient Rome on 5 denarii a day*. Thames and Hudson, 2007. (Paperback available)

www.ostia-antica.org


Articles available on Blackboard in pdf format.
Assignment Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment 1</td>
<td>January 30th</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment 2</td>
<td>March 25th</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>February 25th</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Consult Mason Bulletin</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course.

Grading Scale:

- A+ (100-97)
- A (96-93)
- A- (92-90)
- B+ (89-87)
- B (86-83)
- B- (82-80)
- C+ (79-77)
- C (76-73)
- C- (72-70)
- D (69-60)
- F (59 and below)

Exams

Exams will include visual identifications and interpretations of plans. Be prepared to know dates and specific persons (patrons, architects, restorers) associated with certain buildings. The exams will focus on material from lecture, but there will be questions taken directly from the readings. The format for the exams will primarily be essays and/or short answers. An exam review guide (not comprehensive but emphasizing important ideas and monuments) along with review images will be uploaded to Blackboard approximately a week before each exam. Exams may include some cumulative material but each is largely focused on the material since the previous exam.

Written Assignment 1

The reading from MacDonald on armatures is fundamental for much of what we will discuss in this class. The first written assignment is a simple summary of MacDonald’s ideas: the summary should be between 400 to 600 words (do not exceed 600 words). Focus on the concepts in his argument and define what an armature is, but also provide a few concrete examples of how his ideas of armature work. Do not use any direct quotes: translate his ideas into your own words.

Written Assignment 2

Think of our campus as Augusta Masonia, a survival of the Roman Empire just outside of Fairfax, VA. As a living example of an imperial urban space, it provides you an opportunity to move through a built environment that has many points of correspondence to the Roman cities we discuss in class. Use a map of Mason’s campus and your daily experience of navigating the campus to write a thoughtful essay that views the University space as a miniature Roman city by discussing the following:

- Explain the planning aspect: what type of arrangement(s) does the campus demonstrate?
- Describe and discuss the sequences of an armature (regardless of planning type) that you identify on campus.
- Consider the space between George Mason’s portrait statue and the clock-tower as a Roman forum: what are three specific correspondences that you see? Give the Roman equivalents studied in class.
- How would you interpret the main quad (green space) in a Roman design plan?
- Consider the types and placement of spectacle facilities: are any of them near the “forum”? Would the Romans approve of this arrangement?
- How are commemorative or ideological elements woven into the space? Identify three such elements. Do they have Roman equivalents?
This essay should be between 900 and 1200 words. Do not simply list your responses: this is an essay assignment so should be written in an organized and integrated manner. You may wish to include an annotated plan of campus to help illustrate your points. Not everyone will agree that Mason is a beautiful campus, but put issues of architectural aesthetics/style aside and focus on design, plan, and function. **Note well:** This is intended as a serious assignment and there are answers that are "more correct" than others, so approach this thoughtfully and intellectually.

**Basics For all Written Assignments:**
- Include word count (do not exceed specified word count)
- Margins: 1.5 inches (left), 1 inch (top, bottom, right)
- Typed (no handwritten papers accepted): Double spaced
- Follow all standard English rules of grammar and syntax: failure to do so will result in lower grades.
- Proofread: careless errors will negatively impact your grade.
- Hard copies of the assignment are due in class on the day specified by the syllabus: electronic copies will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized: after one week, late assignments will not be accepted.

**How to Approach Some of the Readings**
The individual entries on buildings and monuments in the Claridge textbook and on the Ostia Antica website are often filled with lots of specific details, dates and chronological developments. I do not expect for you to absorb all of that information. From the readings, I do want you to glean the following basic information:
- **Who made it?**
- **What was the impetus/reason for making it?**
- **What function (or functions) did it serve?**
- **What are the major features of design or decoration that make it distinctive?**

In class, we will then weave the answers to these individual questions into the larger narrative of Roman urbanism, and I will point out any other relevant information about the structure that I want you to know for exams. Pay close attention to illustration, maps and plans in the readings.

**Note-taking:**
Although the readings are critical for the course, class lectures will bring the material together, and it is from the class lecture that substantial portions of each exam will be drawn. You must take thorough notes in order to be prepared for the exams. If there are terms on a slide, include the term, its definition and application in your notes. This is a class based on close reading of images and architectural plans: that means attention to details. Most people are not able to retain all of the specific details without studying copious notes taken during lecture. Do not assume that showing up to class and simply "listening" will be sufficient to prepare you for exams (although regular attendance is essential to doing well in the course).

**Important Notes**
- Attendance at exams is MANDATORY: no make-up exams will be offered without a doctor's excuse or other official documentation. If you miss an exam, you must contact me within 24 hours to schedule the re-take with valid documentation.
- I encourage questions and open discussion in class. Please, however, refrain from “quiet” talking to one another during lectures. It is distracting both to your classmates and to myself. If you persist in this during lectures, I will ask you to leave the classroom.
- Please turn off cell phones when class begins. Texting during class will be treated the same as talking during lectures.
- Use of electronic devices (including cell phones) during exams will be treated as an honor code violation. At the very least, you will receive a "0" on the exam.
Arrive on time for class. Coming in late is disruptive for everyone. If you have a class prior to ours which causes a problem with arriving on time, please discuss it with me.

Discuss any special academic needs with me at the start of the term. Do not wait until after the first exam or later!

Since the material in this course is based on the art and literature of other cultures, some topics of violence, gender, and sexuality may be contrary to individual beliefs, but we will deal with them in an academic and intellectual manner.

All reading assignments should be completed before class each day. The lengths of these assignments vary so keep pace with the syllabus.

No extra credit assignments are offered in the course.

The schedule and pace of the course may be adjusted as needed. If the need arises, a revised syllabus will be placed on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep up with the most recent version of the syllabus.

All university policies of academic integrity and honesty will be enforced in this class: make sure that you are familiar with these policies.

If you have not already signed up for the Mason Alert system, which will send texts concerning weather cancellations, etc. please do so at: https://alert.gmu.edu

**Weekly Schedule**

**January**

**W 23** Reconstructing the Past: Architecture and Urbanism, An Introduction  
Matyszak: 42-62 (background material on Roman culture)

**M 28** Concepts of City Planning in the Classical World  
The readings for this class and the next are on Blackboard as pdf files. These articles are essential to understanding material this semester: read them carefully and more than once is necessary.  

**W 30** Roman Colonies and the Theory of Armatures  
Written Assignment 1 due in class (no electronic submissions) based on the “Armatures” reading.

**February**

**M 4** Building Types and Construction Systems  
Claridge: “Building Techniques,” “Architectural Orders,” and “Building-Types” [See Table of Contents]

**W 6** Rome: Geography, Topography and Infrastructure  
Matyszak: 15-41  
Claridge:  
  - Historical Overview, xv-7  
  - Tiber Island, 243*  
  - Capitolium, 253  
  - Cloaca Maxima and Shrine of Cloacina, 63  
*The page number provided refers to the start page for the entry in the 2010
M 11 Rome: Patronage in the Roman Republic
Claridge:
- Via Appia, 392-393
- Appia Aqueduct, 53
- Largo Argentina Temples, 226
- Round Temple by the Tiber (Hercules Victor), 272
- Theater of Pompey, 224
- Forum of Julius Caesar, 153
- Tomb of Caecilia Metella, 409

W 13 Rome: Urban Reforms under the Emperor Augustus
Claridge:
- Forum of Augustus, 164
- Horologium (Sundial) of Augustus, 201
- Ara Pacis (Altar of Peace), 196
- Mausoleum of Augustus, 192
- Tomb of Gaius Cestius, 378

M 18 Rome: Urban Reforms Under Nero and Constantine's Armature
William MacDonald, The Architecture of the Roman Empire, vol. 1, pp. 27-31 (Blackboard)
Elizabeth Marlowe, “Framing the Sun,” Art Bulletin 2006, vol. 2 (Blackboard)
Claridge:
- Golden House of Nero (Domus Aurea), 308

W 20 Exam 1

M 25 Rome: Homes and Neighborhoods in Imperial Rome
Matyszak: 71-95
Claridge:
- The Palatine, 112-116
- Republican House on the Upper Via Sacra, 107
- Housing under San Giovanni e Paolo, 333
- Capitoline Insula, 248
- Transtiberim (Excubitorium and Sanctuary of the Syrian gods), 385
- Villa of the Quintilii, 411

W 27 Rome: Entertainment in Imperial Rome, Sports and Leisure
Claridge:
- The Circus Maximus, 282
- The Colosseum, 295
- The Stadium and Odeon of Domitian, 220
- Baths of Caracalla, 339
M 4  Rome: Religion, Cult and Commerce in Imperial Rome
Matyszak: 63-70; 96-114
Claridge:
- Pantheon, 210
- Temple of the Deified Hadrian, 207
- Lupercal Cave, 119
- The Iseum and Serapeum, 219
- Forum and Markets of Trajan, 168

W 6  Rome: The Roman Forum as Memory Theater
Claridge, pp. 56-60 and:
- Curia, 63
- Arch of Septimius Severus, 67
- Basilica Aemilia, 61
- Lapis Niger, 65
- Rostra, Milliarum Aureum and Umbilicus Urbis, 74
- Lacus Curtius, 79
- Temple of Vesta, 94
- Temple of the Divus Antoninus Pius and Diva Faustina, 99
- Tabularium, 255

March 11 and 13: Spring Break, no classes

M 18  Ostia: History and Design
All assignments in the Ostia section are keyed to www.ostia-antica.org. For the history, go to the website and click “Introduction to Ostia” under Getting Started. Read sections 1-5. Watch the 2.5 minute video entitled “Ostia antica e porto di Traiano” on the homepage of the website (despite the Italian title, there is no dialogue—just an excellent series of digital reconstructions for the site to whet your curiosity).

Also read:
- Theater (II. VII Teatro)
- Baths of Neptune (Regio II, Insula IV Terme di Nettuno)
- Circular Structure in the Forum (Regio I)
- Porta Romana (Regio II)
- Nymphaeum (I.XIV.1 Ninfeo)

To locate the assigned structures: on the homepage look under The Archaeological Remains, and click on “Topographical Dictionary”. Under the Contents (left-hand side of the new page, “Text Menu”) you will need to select the region (Regio) and then find the block (Insula) specified on the syllabus and follow the link (labeled with the Italian name) to the building. Regio/insula addresses are given in notation with region first and insula second, e.g. The Baths of Neptune are at II.4

On the ostia-antica homepage, under Archaeological Remains, click on “Portus” and read about the Claudian and Trajanic Harbors. Also look under “Plans and 3-D models” at the “3D Model of Portus”.

W 20  Ostia: Housing
House of Diana (I.III Caseggiato di Diana)
Garden Apartments (III.IX Case a giardino)
House of Cupid and Psyche (I.XIV Domus di Amore e Psiche)
House of Jupiter and Ganymede (I.IV.2 Domus di Giove e Ganimede)
Thermopolium (I.I.5 Caseggiato del Termopolio)

**M 25 Ostia: Commerce**
- Piazza of the Corporations (II.VII Piazalle delle Corporazione)
- Caserma of the Vigiles (II.V Caserma dei Vigili)
- Hall and Temple of the Grain Measurers (I.XIX.1 Aula dei Mensores)

Under “Topographical Dictionary”, consult the *Topics* section and read the introductions to the following plus the specified examples:
- The Fulleries (II.XI Fullonica and III.II Fabri Navales)
- Bakeries (I.XIII Molino)
- The Store Buildings (I.VIII Horrea Epagathiana and I.IV Caseggiato dei Doli)

*“Augusta Masonia” Assignment (Written Assignment 2) is due in class: no electronic submissions.*

**W 27 Ostia: Religion and Death**
Mithraism and Mithraea (Under “Topographical Dictionary” page, find the *Topics* submenu and click on “The Mithraea”, click and read “Introduction”, look at “Distribution” and click/read about the Mitreo di Felicissimus, del Caseggiato di Diana, di Menandro, and delle Terme del Mitra)
- Round Temple (IXI Tempio rotondo)
- Synagogue (IV.XVII Synagoga)
- Isola Sacra

**April**
**M 1 Exam 2**

**W 3 Ostia: Forum**
- Forum (Regio I, “Introduction to the Forum”)
- Capitolium
- Circular Structure (review)
- Temple to Rome and Augustus (Tempio di Roma e Augusto)
- Forum Baths (Terme del foro, I.XII.6)

**M 8 Pompeii: History and Layout**
- Berry: 6-31; 78-85

**W 10 To Be Announced**

**M 15 Pompeii: Houses and Interior Design**
- Berry: 154-185

**W 17 Pompeii: Entertainment and Leisure**
Berry: 134-153; 106-111

**M 22  Pompeii: Religion in the City**
Berry: 190-191; 200-206

**W 24  Pompeii: Villas and Agriculture**
Berry: 212-218

**M 29  Pompeii: Trade, Work and Commerce**
Berry: 219-233

**May**

**W 1  Pompeii: Forum**
Berry: 120-133

**M 6  Pompeii: Death and Burial**
Berry: 86-101