

T. BEHR - HIST 4395 "Roman Civilization in Art and Architecture."

Class Description and Learning Outcomes:

This is an inter-disciplinary approach to the civilization of ancient Rome employing social, economic, political, cultural, and art historical methods to the subject. Students will be given a list of significant monuments and works of art that they will visit, describe, sketch (if so inclined), and do some research on the historical context(s) of the artifact (i.e. social, economic, political, cultural), its use and meaning in those contexts, techniques involved, with some reference to the most recent periodical scholarly literature. Students will acquire a broad yet comprehensive interdisciplinary understanding of Roman civilization from the period of the Republic through Empire.

Over the five weeks in Rome, the course will involve 14, 3-hour class sessions in our St. John's University campus classrooms. One-third of that time will be devoted to small-team, group-work presentations and planning, one-third will be devoted to reviewing readings in our assigned texts: "Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome," Adkins (Oxford); "Roman Art and Architecture," Wheeler (Thames & Hudson); and one-third to discussing readings in "Readings in the Literature of Ancient Rome" by D. Pym (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/32810123/Readings-From-the-Literature-of-Ancient-Rome>)

Assignments -

Readings: Due for each class, selections from each of our three texts. Quizzes – 55% (identifications based on the textbooks, short essays based on the literature selections)

Research: Students will choose in their small-teams a combination of three monuments (or sites) and/or three specific works of art (or collection) from a list of particular monuments and, often related, artistic works (sculpture, fresco, mosaics) that will include:

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| - the Coliseum | - Altar of Augustan Peace |
| - the Baths of Caracalla | - Pantheon |
| - the Circus Maximus | - Temple of Portunus |
| - Theater of Marcellus | - various temples and buildings of the Roman Forum and Palatine |
| - Basilica of St. Sabina | - Domus Aurea |
| - Basilica of Maxentius | - Aurelian Walls |
| - Trajan's forum and column | - Appian way and tombs |
| - Hadrian's column | - Pompeii - House of the Mysteries, amphitheater, and other principal buildings |
| - Arch of Constantine | -etc., etc., etc. |
| - Arch of Titus | |
| - Hadrian's mausoleum | |

Works of art will include those that are *in situ* at particular monuments or archeological sites, as well as from visits to the Capitoline museum (sculpture, especially imperial busts), the Museum of Roman Civilization, and the National Museum in Naples. (group presentations – 30%) Students will be assigned for a final presentation a monument and/or work(s) of art upon which they will do an individual presentation for their final exam, one that has not been covered in any of the small-team work, but basically a more elaborate and detailed, more thoroughly researched, version of their regular small-team assignments. (final presentation – 15%)