

Austin College January Term 2007

ROME: *The Eternal* *City*

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Syllabus and Itinerary

Books & Materials:

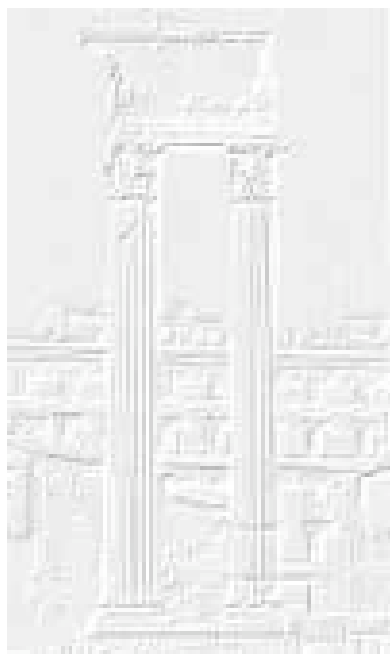
Amanda Claridge. *Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. Oxford UP, 1998.

Alta Macadam. *Blue Guide: Rome*. (9th ed.) Norton, 2006.

Guzzo, Piero Giovanni. *Pompeii*. J.Paul Getty Museum, 2000.

Sketchpad (recommended: Canson, Deerfield Recycled Sketch Pad, 9x12in, 100 sheets, 50lb)
(recommended) *Berlitz Italian Phrase Book & Dictionary*. Berlitz, 2002.

Introduction:



This course offers an exciting opportunity to travel to Rome to study ancient, medieval, and renaissance art and architecture, to acquire a unique perspective on the intellectual, religious, political and social developments of European history, and to experience first hand how a modern culture interacts with its deeply rooted, classical past on a daily basis. I hope you are excited about taking the course; I am delighted to lead it.

Classes will meet at 8:45 am sharp in the Casa Tra Noi lobby on Tuesdays through Saturdays each week. Each class session will last until approximately 1:00 pm, or until we are finished at the site we visit. Because it is difficult to know in advance when all the sites, museums, churches, etc. will be open—and because places may not be open when they say they are—we will need to be flexible in our scheduling. We may have an occasional afternoon meeting and will probably need to meet on the last Sunday. This is unavoidable in Rome. Be prepared for anything! I will announce such changes in advance, when I know them. Please read the accompanying Course Policies and Learning Agreement and sign the latter.

Daily site visits will be a combination of lecture and question & answer. Some Q/A will come from the readings, and everyone will be expected to know the material. Other Q/A will be about general features of ancient Roman culture.

Don't be concerned that you don't know the answers to the second type of question. Some you may be able to deduce from the reading and lectures; others are meant to get you thinking about what it was like to live in Rome 2,000 years ago. After class you are free to explore the city for the rest of the day.

In addition to the daily readings and on-site discussions, there will be two other kinds of assignments: daily journal entries, and sketches. I ask you to keep a daily journal to record your impressions of the city as you see things for the first time. The assignment is meant to allow you to capture your impressions, feelings and new information you learn on paper so you will have a permanent, written record of your trip to Rome for years to come. Journals are due every Monday and will be returned on Tuesday. Sketches are meant to serve somewhat the same purpose as journals, except that sketches provide a record of your own impressions of what you see. You will always have photographs and postcards from your trip, but when you draw sketches you have to look at the details of the monuments and try to reproduce them yourself: a much more intense way of seeing things. I ask that you make some sketches of specific monuments, or of a type of monument, because of the importance of the monuments; for some sketches, you may determine the subject matter. If you want to substitute a different monument for one specified, get permission from me first. Spend some time on the sketches, at least half an hour, preferably longer. The sketches are not graded on artistic excellence or realism. Instead, just as with the journals, we will look at the sketches to see that you are making serious attempts to render what you see on paper. I want you to have a good record of what you saw and how you saw it in addition to the usual tourist pictures everyone brings back. You will also be responsible for talking to the class about one of the buildings you sketch, emphasizing what you see in the building. I also encourage you to make more sketches than required, just for yourself. By the way, if your sketches are good, people walking by may offer to buy them!



There will be a short midterm covering factual material about ancient Rome; it will be given at 3:00pm on Thursday, January 13. Everyone will take the exam at the same time. Those with plans to leave for the long weekend must schedule their departure after the exam. You must get at least a "C" on the Midterm to pass the class. In lieu of a final exam you will compile your journal entries, sketches, and photographs into a verbal and visual journal of your trip—a scrapbook. This will be due by Friday, February 11.



Summary of Assignments:

- Daily readings and discussions
- Daily journal (turned in each Monday)
- 6 Sketches, including: 1) Colosseum, 2) a triumphal arch (Titus, Constantine, Septimius Severus, etc), 3) a temple, 4) an ancient monument used in a "modern" building, 5-6) two sites of your own choosing (turn in two sketches each Monday, with your journal)
- Midterm, Jan. 13
- Trip Scrapbook, due Feb. 11.

Day by Day Syllabus and Itinerary (subject to change, with as much notice as possible)

Pre-Travel Reading (read Macadam before we leave; the others can be read on the plane, if you wish. Do get started on the *Pompeii* book early.)

- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, "Additional Information," and history, pp. 572-574
- Claridge, *Rome*, "Historical Overview," "Sources," "Glossary," pp. 1-59

Wed., Jan. 3 –Morning Arrive in Rome, transfer to Casa Tra Noi, settle in, look around the "Velabrum" We will walk around the area we will live in and get to know the surroundings.

— **Afternoon** *Why is Rome Here?*

Reading to be done before we get to Rome:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 60-118, 243-261
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 8-15, 34-35, 61-87, 319-24

Discussion Topics:

- Be prepared to discuss the nature of the Forum as the civic, religious, and social center of Rome.
- How did the Romans organize their civic space?
- Why did the Romans have different fora?

Sites visited:

Forum Boarium, Forum Holitorium, Forum Romanum

Monuments Seen:

Arch of Janus, Arch of the Argentarii, Temple of Portumnus, Temple of Hercules, S. Maria in Cosmedine, S. Nicola in Carcere, Archaic Area at S. Omobono, Theater of Marcellus and Temple of Apollo Medicus Sosianus (in passing); all areas of the Forum Romanum



Thur., Jan. 4 *The Etruscan Background* (Trip to Tarquinia)

No reading for today

Discussion Topics:

- What are some of the distinctive features of the Etruscan culture?
- How did the Etruscans influence the Romans?

Monuments Seen:

Castle of Tarquinia (Etruscan Museum); Etruscan tombs

Note: for this trip we will be gone most of the day, returning in the afternoon. We will bring a sack lunch with us. We may take a train to Tarquinia and a local bus to the town. This trip will require lots of walking. Be sure to get enough sleep the night before, especially if you are experiencing some jet lag.

Fri., Jan 5 *Etruscan Influence in Rome*

Reading to be done before the **morning** site visits:

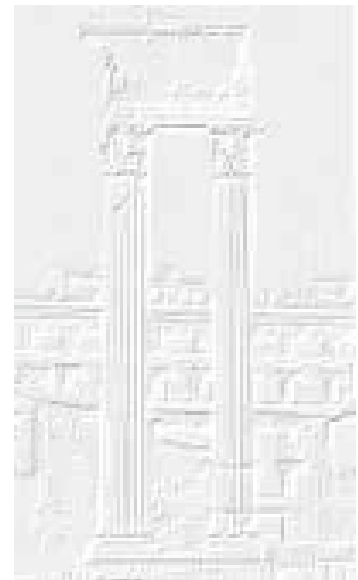
- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 264-5
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 325-26

Discussion Topics:

- Now that we have seen something of the Etruscans, let's consider their impact on the city and culture of Rome. What effect would Etruscan building projects have had on the early city?

Monuments Seen:

Velabrum, Forum Boarium, Cloaca Maxima, Circus Maximus



Fri., Jan. 5 (Cont.) *The Campus Martius*

Reading to be done before the **afternoon** site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 174-228
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 128-136, 150-180, 259-272

Discussion Topics:

This area has been built up quite heavily and it is difficult to get a sense for how it appeared at any particular point in history. Rather than try to synthesize an impression of the whole area, be prepared to talk about any and all the monuments we see.

Monuments Seen:

Tiber Island, Theater of Marcellus, Theater of Balbus, Circus Flaminius, Temples in Largo Argentina, Theater of Pompey, Pantheon, Circus of Domitian (Piazza Navona), Ara Pacis, Temple of Augustus, Column of Marcus Aurelius, Temple of Hadrian

Note: the order we will view the monuments is nearly opposite that given by Claridge



Sat., Jan. 6 *Imperial Splendor*

Readings:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 119-145, 146-173, 266-304
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 99-111, 112-127

Discussion Topics:

Be prepared to discuss how the emperors built up the city and the impressions created by their enormous monuments.

Monuments Seen:

Imperial Fora, Column of Trajan, Colosseum, Golden Palace of Nero, Temple to Venus and Roma, Arch of Constantine, Palatine Hill



Sun., Jan. 7—Mon., Jan. 8 *Weekend*



Tues., Jan. 9 *The Baths*

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 319-328, 352-4
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 227-235, 237-244. 331-335

Discussion Topics:

Be prepared to talk about the particular areas of Roman baths and the importance of baths as social events.

Monuments Seen:

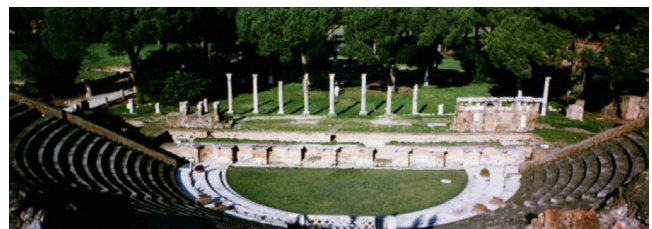
Baths of Caracalla, Baths of Diocletian (S. Maria degli Angeli), Museo Nazionale & Palazzo Massimo

Wed., Jan. 10 *Ostia Antica (Trip to Ostia on the train)*

Reading to be done before the morning site visit:

- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 504-520

Note: This trip will last into the afternoon and we will bring a sack lunch with us. Lots of walking.



Thur., Jan 11 Pompeii (all day, bus trip)

Reading to be done before the morning visit:

- Guzzo, *Pompeii* (the whole book)
- Brief lecture on bus to Pompeii

Discussion Topics:

What makes Pompeii different from the monuments and towns (Rome, Ostia) we have seen? How does Pompeii change our impressions of ancient life, architecture, town planning?

Monuments Seen: Pompeii



Thur., Jan. 11 Midterm

—Time and place taken to be determined

Fri., Jan. 12-Mon. Jan. 15 Long Weekend

Schedule to be determined by students in groups. If students plan to travel outside of Rome, they need to indicate where they are going in writing and call Casa Tra Noi with a phone number where they can be reached when they get to their destination.

Tues., Jan. 16 Catacombs

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 408-418
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 486-500

Discussion Topics:

General impressions about burial in the catacombs. Be prepared to comment on Roman and Christian burial customs, including eating meals at the grave site and using burial grounds as a place of worship.

Monuments Seen:

St. Callistus or St. Sebastian catacombs; other sites to be determined when we are in Rome



Wed., Jan. 17 Rome: Foundations of Christianity Audience with the Pope

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 16-20, 403-426

Discussion Topics:

How do the Pope and St. Peter's continue to embody ancient Roman ideas?

Monuments Seen:

St. Peter's Basilica (not the Vatican museums...yet)

Thurs., Jan. 18 Early Christian Rome

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 346-350
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 245-258, 347-353

Discussion Topics:

How do the early churches represent their connections with ancient Rome?
What does the placement of these churches on the city plan say about early Christianity?

Monuments Seen:

St. John Lateran, St. Prasseda, S. Maria Maggiore, S. Pudenziana, S. Pietro in Vincoli, S. Clemente

Fri., Jan. 19 *Churches and Museums in Rome*

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 377-385
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 37-59, 147-149, 152-154, 263-266

Discussion Topics:

Be prepared to talk about individual buildings. We have been looking, for the most part, at actual sites and archaeological remains. Now we will look at some museum collections in a more serious way. What do museums show us that the archaeological sites don't? What do museums not show? Do museums change how we think about ancient art, architecture, and even ancient life?

Monuments Seen:

The Gesù, S. Maria Sopra Minerva, S. Ignatius, SS. Apostoli, S. Maria in Aracoeli, Capitoline Museums



Renaissance Rome—Thursday or Friday, Jan. 18-19, afternoons

—locations to be determined

Sun., Jan. 21 *Three Coins in the Trevi, and Arrivederci Roma!*

Plane leaves Fiumichino airport at 10:45 am; be packed and ready to go at 7:00am!

FINAL NOTES:

There are a number of monuments almost conspicuously absent from the above syllabus. We will try to see these in the course of our other visits. About twice or three times a week I will also lead a group (if anyone is interested) to some site or museum we will not be able to visit as a class. During the long weekend I will probably go to Hadrian's Villa near Tivoli and may take a group to Praeneste (Palestrina). As always, such trips will depend on the weather and other factors. And, as always, our guiding principle will be *Carpe Diem!* Let's be flexible and prepared to take advantages of opportunities as they present themselves. Let me know if you have suggestions and comments.

Sat., Jan. 20 *Vatican Museums*

Reading to be done before the morning site visits:

- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 386-404
- Macadam, *Blue Guide*, pp. 427-466

Monuments Seen:

The Vatican Museums

Note: It will be nearly impossible to lecture in the museums and absolutely impossible to see everything we want to see. I will lead a group of whoever wishes to come and we will visit the major museums. We will try to see all the major works of art from Egyptian times to the 18th century, including the Raphael Stanze and the Sistine Chapel. If you do not choose to come with the group you will be on your own in the museums and will be responsible for getting back to Casa Tra Noi.

