ARTS 207:
Roman Art

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:45; 114 Little Hall

Professor Elizabeth Marlowe
cmarlowe@colgate.edu
307 Little Hall; 228-6098

office hours: W, 2-3 p.m. & Th, 11 a.m. - noon

Description: This course will introduce students to some of the riches of Roman material culture, including painting, sculpture, architecture, coinage and urbanism, from the 6th century BCE to the 4th century CE. Despite this broad timeframe, the aim is not exhaustive chronological coverage. Rather, our focus will be on the social and political contexts that generated the production of artworks in the Roman world. There was no such thing in the ancient world as “art for art’s sake.” Art was not an end in itself; it was produced and displayed because it served particular social, political and/or religious purposes in the Roman world.

What’s more, individual works look the way they look because those particular forms were most expedient for the function the work was meant to fulfill. In effect, we will thus, in this course, be reading backwards, from a close visual analysis of the works of art to the social function they played to the larger forces and tensions of Roman history.

A secondary goal of this class will be to develop students’ ability to read and analyze scholarly literature, a skill that will be honed in a series of précis exercises in which students deconstruct the arguments of single articles. The final paper will be a more in-depth version of this exercise.
Readings: There are two textbooks for this course: *A History of Roman Art*, by Fred S. Kleiner (FSK below), and *A Brief History of the Romans*, by Mary T. Boatwright et. al. (MTB below). There will be regular assignments in both of these, which you are expected to have completed by the day they are listed on the syllabus. There will also be frequent readings of scholarly articles and chapters as well (see schedule of readings below).

Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>précis 1:</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>précis 2:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>précis 3:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final exam:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

T, 1/19: The Emergence of Rome, c10 – c4 BCE: the Forum Romanum, Cloaca Maxima and Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus

- FSK 1-6
- MTB 15-23

Th, 1/21: Praise and Glory: the Servian Wall and Republican Victory Temples

- FSK 8-10
- MTB 32-46; skim 46-52; 52-53.

T, 1/26: Keeping Up With the Jones’: Sulla’s Tabularium, the Theater of Pompey and the Forum of Caesar

- FSK 57-59
- MTB 142-66

Th, 1/28: The Civil Wars and the War of Images: Coinage during the Civil Wars

- MTB 167-80 (optional)

T, 2/2: From Republic to Monarchy: The Mausoleum and the Forum of Augustus

- FSK 79-80; 64-66
- MTB 180-87

Th, 2/4: The Consolidation of the Image of Augustus: The Ara Pacis

- FSK 70-72
- MTB 194-99
T, 2/9: Article Discussion (1st précis due)

- FSK 52-56

Th, 2/11: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Nero’s portraits, the Domus Aurea, Vespasian’s portraits and the Templum Pacis

- FSK 115-27
- MTB 201-02; 207-13; 222-27

T, 2/16: Judea Capta: Flavian coinage, the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum

- FSK 127-32

Th, 2/18: Article Discussion (2nd précis option 1)

- Jennifer Trimble, “Replicating the Body Politic: The Herculaneum Women Statue Types in Early Imperial Italy,” *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 13 (2000), 41-68. [on Blackboard]

T, 2/23: Greetings in Pompeii: The Social Structure of the Roman House

- FSK 31-39

Th, 2/25: Article Discussion (2nd précis option 2)


T, 3/2: The Conquered Captor: Roman “copies” of Greek Sculpture and the Villa Farnesina

- FSK 47-51; 73-77; 144-46

**Th, 3/4: MIDTERM**

T, 3/9: NO CLASS (EM giving paper in Kansas)

Th, 3/11: NO CLASS (EM giving paper in Kansas)

T, 3/16: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Th, 3/18: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

T, 3/23: “Romanization”? Acqueducts, baths, theaters and funerary monuments around the Empire

- FSK 89-92; 96-99; 252-55
- MTB 214-21
Th, 3/25: Article Discussion (3rd précis option 1)


T, 3/30: Elites in Aphrodisias: Portraiture and the Sebasteion

Th, 4/1: Freedmen Funerary monuments: Isola Sacra, the Tomb of Eurysaces (“the Baker”) and the Tomb of the Haterii

- FSK 80-87; 210-212

T, 4/6: Article Discussion (3rd précis option 2)


Th, 4/8: The Forum of Trajan

- MTB 228-35

T, 4/13: Likeness or Ideal, again: The Column of Trajan

- FSK 159-62

Th, 4/15: The Most Famous Roman Monument of All: The Pantheon

- FSK 181-83

T, 4/20: The Ideal Emperor in the Later Roman Empire: Hadrian to the Tetrarchs

- MTB 273-284

Th, 4/22: A Thorny Problem: The Arch of Constantine

- FSK 294-96
- MTB 284-91

T, 4/27: New Wine in Old Bottles: Early Christian Art: St. Peter's Basilica, the Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus, the Missorium of Theodosius

- FSK 299-301; 304-05
- MTB 291-94

Th, 4/29: The Ara Pacis Today

**MONDAY, MAY 3, noon-2 pm: Final Exam**