

Concept course programme 2025 – The Making of Europe: Rome through Art & History

In this syllabus you find the course schedule and literature. We would like to ask you to read Mary Beard, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome* (London: Profile Books, 2015, [buy online](#)) prior to the course. In addition, we encourage you to watch the three-part documentary *Rome: A History of the Eternal City* (BBC, 2012, presented by Simon Sebag Montefiore, [watch online](#)). In preparation for each course day, you are also required to read an article and/or watch a documentary or listen to a podcast, which is indicated in the programme and will be provided by the course directors.

Lectures take place at the **Camplu Pietralata** (Via del Cottanello, 12, 00158 Roma) and excursions are on location in the city. This course has 2 assignments: (1) a presentation on location on a topic of your choice and (2) a final exam on the topics covered during the course. You will hear more about these assignments on the first day of the course.

Course directors:

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Jacob Philipp Hackert (1737-1807), *Fireworks over Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome, 1775*. Wikimedia Commons.

Week 1

Monday, 7 July		Theme: Prehistory & Antiquity
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Camplus Pietralata – breakfast area
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Start course	Camplus Pietralata – lecture room Practical matters
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Introductory lecture	<i>The Capitoline Hill: A Bird's-eye View of the History of Rome.</i>
3:00-5:00 p.m.	Excursion	Panoramic terrace on the Vittoriano, Piazza del Campidoglio and Capitoline Museums
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Excursion	Colosseum
<p>Literature</p> <p>P. Burke, 'How to Write a History of Europe: Europe, Europes, Eurasia', <i>European Review</i>, 14.2 (2006), pp. 233-239.</p> <p>Listen to the BBC podcast 'Rome and European Civilization': Melvyn Bragg in conversation with Mary Beard, Catherine Edwards and Greg Woolf.</p>		

Tuesday, 8 July		Theme: Antiquity (Imperial Rome)
Time	Activity	Description
8:00-8:30	Breakfast	
9:00-11:30	Excursion	Palatine Hill (incl. the houses of Augustus and Livia), Forum Romanum and Arch of Constantine
1:00-2:00	Lecture	<i>The Power of Art: Imperial Imagery from Augustus to Constantine.</i>
5:00	Introductory drinks	Get to know each other!
<p>Literature</p> <p>Watch episode 1 ('All Roads Lead to Rome') of the BBC documentary <i>Meet the Romans with Mary Beard</i>.</p> <p>Read the MET essay 'Roman Portrait Sculpture: The Stylistic Cycle' by Rosemarie Trentinella.</p> <p>Primary literature (optional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i>, book 8 (Aeneas' visit to Pallantium, site of future Rome). • Livy, <i>History of Rome</i>, book 1 (legendary founding of Rome). 		

Wednesday, 9 July		Theme: Antiquity/Early Christianity
Time	Activity	Description
8:30-9:00	Breakfast	
9:30-2:30	Excursion	Pyramid of Caius Cestius (funeral monument, 1st century BCE) Centrale Montemartini (exhibition space in a former thermoelectric centre) Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls (and its necropolis)
<p>Literature</p> <p>Watch episode 2 ("Street Life") of the BBC documentary <i>Meet the Romans with Mary Beard</i>.</p> <p>R. Taylor, K. Rinne and S. Kostof, Chapter 14 'Tetrarchic and Constantinian Rome' and Chapter 15 'Trophies and <i>Tituli</i>: Christian Infrastructure before Constantine', in idem, <i>Rome: An Urban History from Antiquity to the Present</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp. 132-150.</p>		

Thursday, 10 July		Theme: Middle Ages
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:30	Lecture	<i>Mediaeval Mosaics and the Transformation of Rome from a Secular to a Christian Capital.</i>
1:45-5:30	Excursion	Churches: San Giovanni in Laterano, San Clemente, Santa Prassede, Santa Pudenziana and Santa Maria Maggiore
7:00-9:00	Excursion (optional)	Gregorian chants performed by monks at the Sant'Anselmo on the Aventine Hill (start 7:15 p.m.)
<p>Literature</p> <p>D. Kinney, 'Communication in a Visual Mode: Papal Apse Mosaics', <i>Journal of Mediaeval History</i>, 44.3 (2018), pp. 311-332.</p>		

Friday, 11 July		Theme: Middle Ages
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:30	Lecture	<i>Popes and Pilgrims: Travelling to and through Rome in the Middle Ages.</i>

1:00-6:00	Excursion	Piazza del Popolo, Castel Sant'Angelo and Passetto di Borgo (the medieval escape route of the Pope)
6:30	Aperitivo (optional)	Foods and drinks in Trastevere!
<p>Literature</p> <p>B. Wisch, 'The Matrix: <i>Le sette chiese di Roma</i> of 1575 and the Image of Pilgrimage', <i>Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome</i>, 56/57 (2011/2012), pp. 271-303.</p> <p>Watch (optional) the thrilling movie <i>Angels and Demons</i> (by Ron Howard, story by Dan Brown, 2009).</p> <p>Primary literature (optional): <i>Mirabilia urbis Romae</i> (<i>Marvels of the City of Rome</i>). (excerpts)</p>		

Saturday, 12 July		
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-10:00	Breakfast	
Morning	Self-study	Preparing presentations for week 2 Let us know if you have any questions!

Sunday, 13 July		
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-10:00	Breakfast	
Free time	Suggestions	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square (on Sundays at noon) • Walk along the Via Appia (one of the earliest Roman roads known for its many historical monuments) • Take a trip <i>outside</i> Rome: visit Ostia Antica (port of ancient Rome) or Tivoli (town of villas and gardens)! <p>Museums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palazzo Altemps (15th-century palace housing antiquities & Renaissance artworks) • Galleria Nazionale d'arte moderne e contemporanea (19th & 20th century art) • Mattatoio (museum for contemporary art, located in the old slaughterhouse of Rome)

Week 2

Monday, 14 July		Theme: Renaissance
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:30	Lecture #1	<i>Behind the Masterpieces: Workshop Practices and Canon Formation in the Renaissance.</i>
	Lecture #2	<i>Reclaiming Voices: Art, Artifact, and the Ethics of Representation in the Anima Mundi Museum.</i>
1:15-6:00	Excursion	Vatican Museums & St. Peter's Basilica Presentations on location #1 Authorship
<p>Literature</p> <p>S. Brevaglieri, 'Rethinking the Origins of the Vatican Ethnological Museum. Reflections and Goals of an Ongoing Research Agenda', working paper (2023) [online].</p> <p>G. Vasari, 'Life of Raphael', in: <i>Lives of the Most Eminent Painters Sculptors and Architects</i> (2nd ed., 1568), volume IV: Filippino Lippi to Domenico Puligo (translation G. du C. DeVere) [online].</p> <p>Watch the lecture of Cammy Brothers on Michelangelo, Raphael, and the Genius Paradox.</p>		

Tuesday, 15 July		Theme: Renaissance & Baroque
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:00	Lecture #1	<i>Gender and Artistic Authority in Baroque Rome.</i>
11:15-12:00	Lecture #2	<i>The Power & Art of Water: The Fountains of Rome.</i>
2:00-6:00	Excursion	Roman fountains (incl. Turtle Fountain, Fountain of the Four Rivers and Trevi Fountain) and Galleria Borghese Presentations on location #2 Gender
<p>Literature</p> <p>M. Garrard, 'Artemisia and the Writers: Feminism in Early Modern Europe' in: <i>Artemisia Gentileschi and Feminism in Early Modern Europe</i>, 2023, pp. 13-68.</p> <p>W. Dragoni, 'Rome's Fountains: Beauty and Public Service from Geology, Power and Technology', in: A.J. Hynynen et al. eds., <i>Water Fountains in the Worldscape</i>, 2012, pp. 18-33.</p> <p>Watch (optional) the all-time classic movie La Dolce Vita (by Federico Fellini, 1960).</p>		

Wednesday, 16 July		19th Century: Romanticism & Risorgimento
Time	Activity	Description
09:00-09:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:30	Lecture	<i>The Romantic Imagination: Constructing the Other in Art and Society.</i>
12:30-2:30	Excursion	Villa Torlonia Presentations on location #3
Afternoon	Self-study	
<p>Literature</p> <p>R. Kumar, 'Classicism versus Romanticism in Italy and the Construction of Italian Nation and Identity', <i>IRJMSH</i> 6.1 (2015), pp. 633-641.</p> <p>Primary literature (optional): Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, <i>Italian Journey 1786-1788</i>, London: Penguin Books, 1982. (excerpts)</p>		

Thursday, 17 July		20th Century: Fascism
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
10:00-11:30	Lecture	<i>Women Futurists and Fascist Aesthetics in Early 20th-Century Rome.</i>
2:00-6:00	Excursion	Foro Italico Artist's house of Giacomo Balla MAXXI – National Museum of 21st Century Art Presentation on location #4
<p>Literature</p> <p>M. Jiang, 'Benedetta and the Influence of Women on Futurist Art', 2024 [online].</p> <p>B.W. Painter, Chapter 1 'Mussolini's Obsession with Rome', in idem, <i>Mussolini's Rome: Rebuilding the Eternal City</i>, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, pp. 1-19.</p> <p>P. Baxa, 'Piacentini's Window: The Modernism of the Fascist Master Plan of Rome', <i>Contemporary European History</i>, 13.1 (2004), pp. 1-20.</p>		

Friday, 18 July

Time	Activity	Description
9:00-9:30	Breakfast	
11:00-1:00	Final exam	Lecture room
01:00-06:00	Free afternoon	
7:00-10:00	Closing session	Evaluation of the course, drinks and pubquiz

Saturday, 19 July

Time	Activity	Description
9:30-10:00	Breakfast	
	Saying goodbye	Safe flight!