

COURSE: Basic Classical Archaeology - Roman Archaeology (L-ANT/07 – 10 CFU)

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1. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO BE ACHIEVED DURING THE COURSE

After the course, students are expected to acquire a general knowledge about Roman art and archaeology; to develop competencies in studying and interpreting archaeological spaces, monuments and material culture in their art-historical, socio-economic, political and anthropological reference contexts; to carry out researches on themes pertaining to Roman art.

2. PROGRAM/ CONTENTS

The course examines development of Roman art from the legendary founding of the city of Rome (753 B.C.) to the age of Constantine the Great (303-307 A.D.), by considering the archaeology and material culture of the city of Rome and the provinces. Topics to be covered include the origin and development of the city of Rome; the Republican age; the influence of Greek culture over Roman one; the communication through the images; the Imperial art; the daily life in the Roman Empire; the archaeology of cult and religion; provincial archaeology and the relationship between center and periphery. Specific focus will be paid to the city organization and main architectures, to the portrait, to wall painting, to funerary culture and sarcophagi; to the historical relief. The understanding of political meaning of Imperial art will be carefully analyzed; furthermore, emphasis will be placed on the archaeology of identity in an imperial context.

3. TEXT BOOKS

N.H. Ramage, A. Ramage, Roman Art, London 2014 (or previous editions)
Further recommended readings (optional): P. Zanker, Roman Art, Los Angeles 2011 (from Chapter 2 to Chapter 7); P. Zanker, The power of images in the Age of Augustus, Ann Arbor 1990.

4. EDUCATIONAL METHOD AND TOOLS

The didactic program foresees a series of remote lessons, covering the following topics:

- The origin of Rome; Rome under the kings; the Republican Age
- The Republican Age; the influence of Greek culture; the portrait
- The birth of the Empire; the age of Augustus
- The Pax augusta; the mural painting
- The Julio-Claudians
- The Flavians
- Trajan
- Hadrian and the Antonines
- Funerary culture; sarcophagi
- The Severan dynasty, the Tetrarchy; the age of Constantine the Great.

5. EVALUATION METHODS (FINAL EXAM)

The evaluation will consist in an oral exam (questions concerning general and specific topics addressed during the lessons; recognition/description of monuments, sculptures, vases, artefacts analyzed in the lessons; knowledge of the examined archaeological sites and periods).

6. AREAS OF APPLICATION OF ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE

The acquired knowledge and competencies will allow the graduates to be employed as professional archaeologists in a wide range of potential institutions, such as those connected to cultural heritage management, protection and valorization, e.g. museums, archaeological sites; public administrations;

academic and research entities; archaeological excavations associations or cooperatives; organizations working in the field of tourism, history, architecture etc.