



**AH/CL 243 SCRIPTA MANENT: LATIN INSCRIPTIONS OF ANCIENT ROME**  
IES Abroad Rome

**DESCRIPTION:** The course provides students with the basic instruments needed to draw information about the life of ancient Rome from Latin inscriptions. During the course basic Latin grammar elements are provided in order to interpret texts. The inscriptions examined in class will supply information about various aspects of Roman history: social structure, everyday life, military life, political organization, economic issues, law and religion. The analysis of inscriptions will take place both in class and in field studies to give students the chance to practice reading inscription texts and to become familiar with their location, supports and materials.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- Lectures
- Visual presentations
- Course-related trips to archaeological sites, monuments and museums, student presentations

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Class participation - 15%
- Midterm exam - 25%
- Transcription, translation and analysis of 5 inscriptions to be presented by students in class and in a final paper - 30%
- Final exam - 30%

The mid-term and final exams include a mix of multiple choice, Q&A and open answer questions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- recognize the different types of Latin inscriptions
- distinguish the destination of inscribed objects or monuments
- understand some general topics of ancient Rome's culture in its public and private matters
- manage the sources which will enable them to continue research on any topic of interest

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

**CONTENT:**

Week	Content	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>  <b>Session 1</b>		Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 1(Introduction)

<b>Session 2</b>	<p>General overview of the course and introduction to the topic: definition of the discipline and its value as a valid instrument for Roman history.</p> <p>How was an inscription obtained? Supports, materials, techniques; the survival of ancient inscriptions; the “epigraphic habit”</p>	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapters 2 and 5
<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>Session 3</b>	Elements of palaeography. Classification of different types of inscriptions. The Emperor’s titles: dedicatory inscriptions and triumphal arches	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapters 3 and 7
<b>Session 4</b>	Course-related trip: Obelisks and honorific columns	
<b>Week 3</b>		
<b>Session 5</b>	History of the discipline: the corpora, how to use them	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 6
<b>Session 6</b>	Course-related trip: Roman Forum (written displays in a public area)	
<b>Week 4</b>		
<b>Session 7</b>	The reading of an inscription: diacritical signs, reading, transcription, translation, interpretation, dating	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 4 and Appendix 5
<b>Session 8</b>	Course-related trip: Terme di Diocleziano	
<b>Week 5</b>		
<b>Session 9</b>	Who were the Romans? Names, identities and careers. Abbreviations in funerary, dedicatory, religious, military and administrative inscriptions	
<b>Session 10</b>	Course-related trip: Musei Capitolini-Galleria Lapidaria	
<b>Week 6</b>		
<b>Session 11</b>	Review Session for Midterm exam	
<b>Session 12</b>	Midterm Exam	
<b>Week 7</b>		
<b>Session 13</b>	Everyday life through the inscriptions and social organization	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 13
<b>Session 14</b>	Course-related trip: Musei vaticani, galleria lapidaria	

<b>Week 8</b>  <b>Session 15</b> <b>Session 16</b>	Political life: The cursus honorum: path towards political career and its evolution throughout history. Pompey's graffiti and the electoral campaigns Course-related trip: Roman Houses at the Celio	Reading : Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapters 8 and 10
<b>Week 9</b>  <b>Session 17</b>  <b>Session 18</b>	Religion through inscriptions: temples and altars  Course-related trip: Pantheon, Palazzo Altemps	Reading : Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 12
<b>Week 10</b>  <b>Session 19</b>  <b>Session 20</b>	The Roman Army: what was like to be a soldier in ancient Rome  Course-related trip: Porticus Octaviae-Bridges	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 11
<b>Week 11</b>  <b>Session 21</b>  <b>Session 22</b>	The economic world of Rome  Course-related trip: S. Paolo Basilica (introducing late roman and christian epigraphy)	Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 14
<b>Week 12</b>  <b>Session 23</b>  <b>Session 24</b>	Review session for final exam  Final Exam	

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:** In the following field studies, the archaeological sites, monuments and museums will give the students the opportunity to practise the reading and the interpretation of the inscriptions in their original location or in museums:

1. Obelisks and columns (piazza del Popolo, Montecitorio, Colonna antonina, Colonna Traiana, Trevi, Quirinale)
2. Roman Forum
3. Terme di Diocleziano
4. Capitoline Museums, Galleria Lapidaria
5. Musei Vaticani, Galleria lapidaria
6. Roman Houses at the Celio, inscriptions from the Antiquarium.
7. Palazzo Altemps
8. Porticus Octaviae-Bridges
9. S. Paolo basilica (chiostro)

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Understanding Roman Inscriptions, Lawrence Keppie, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Introduction to Latin and Greek epigraphy: an absolute beginner's guide (web access: <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~vannijf/epigraphy1.htm>). An useful introduction to the scholarly work in the field of epigraphy. Several links to electronic and web accessible resources (data-bases etc.) for the study of inscriptions.
- Frederic M. Wheelock, Wheelock's Latin, Collins, 6th edition 2005.
- Rosanna Friggeri, The Epigraphic collection of the Museo Nazionale Romano at the baths of Diocletian, Roma 2001, Electa.