AH 325 LIGHT OF THE DARK AGES: MEDIEVAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN ROME
IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION: This course aims to give a broad survey on the medieval art of Rome, from the fourth to the fourteenth centuries. A special emphasis will be given to the historical background of Rome. Throughout its history, Rome remained faithful to the classical tradition. This course will study the development of monumental decorative programs in a variety of media (architecture, sculpture, paintings and mosaics). Through an examination of selected major monuments we will consider the main features of works of art, their material composition, their iconography and iconology and their impact on the society. We will learn to “see”, “read” and interpret images from the history and civilization of Rome in the background of medieval Western civilization. Special attention will be paid to how Rome’s past shaped and has been used in the Middle Ages. It will take particular advantage of the city’s abundance of mosaics and paintings, sculptures, architectures and inscriptions, which will be analyzed in class and during on-site visits. The aims are to understand the historical context of medieval Roman art and to build skills of interpretation of medieval images.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Two complementary kinds of class meetings characterize the course: slide lectures and group discussions in the classroom; and course-related trips to monuments, meaning first-hand scrutiny of monuments on location in the city.
- Basic readings, prepared by all students in the course, will be supplemented with more focused texts summarized for the class by individuals or small groups.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Midterm exam (25%) and cumulative final exam (30%);
- Participation and professionalism (20%);
- Research paper (25%).

The exams, which are based on lectures and readings, will consist of monument identifications (via slides) and essays.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Recognize major works of art and monuments of the period
- Understand the importance of the medieval period in the scope of art history
- Be familiar with major iconographical themes and understand their importance
- Approach art historical problems and articles in a knowledgeable way

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad 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 Abroad will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Global brilliance begins here.
Institute for the International Education of Students
Africa | Asia Pacific | Europe | Latin America
| Week 1 | **Introduction to the course**  
Review of the syllabus; the invention of the Middle Ages; the Roman State religion and its visual codes  
Course-related trip: S. Maria in Aracoeli; Capitoline Museums | Basic Readings:  
*Note: items marked with an asterisk are primary (i.e. late ancient or medieval) sources.*  
Krautheimer, *Profile of a City*, ch. 1 (*Rome and Constantine*)  
| --- | --- |
| Week 2 | **Roman Christianity from Nero to Constantine; Churches & Mosaics in the Age of the Visigothic Sack.**  
Course-related trip: S. Pudenziana, S. Maria Maggiore | Basic Readings (for everyone):  
Krautheimer, *Profile of a City*, ch. 2 (*The Christianization of Rome and the Romanization of Christianity*)  
Focus Readings (for individual or small-group summaries):  
| Week 3 | **The Early Middle Ages; Art and Urban Change after the Gothic War**  
Course-related trip: Museum of the Crypta Balbi | Basic Readings:  
Krautheimer, *Profile of a City*, ch. 3 (*The Times of Gregory the Great*)  
| Week 4 | **Christianization of the Roman Fora**  
Course-related trip: Arch of Constantine; SS. Cosma e Damiano, S. Francesca Romana (icon in the sacristy). | Basic reading:  
Krautheimer, *Profile of a City*, ch. 4  
Focus Readings:  
Lucy, S., “Palimpsest Reconsidered: Continuity and Change in the Decorative Programs at Santa Maria Antiqua,” in *Santa Maria Antiqua al Foro Romano: cento anni dopo*, Atti del colloquio internazionale, Roma, 5-6. |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Rome in the Age of Charlemagne</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Review &amp; midterm exam; the Medieval Book</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid term exam; classroom lecture</td>
<td>Readings: Krautheimer, <em>Profile of a City</em>, ch. 6 (<em>Realities, Ideologies and Rhetoric</em>)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks 7-8</th>
<th>Church Reform, Antipopes, and the Mirabilia</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<th>Weeks 9-11</th>
<th>Duecento Flowerings and the First Papal Jubilee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>General review</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**Course Textbooks:**


**Internet Resources:**


**Course Reader Containing the Following:**


RESERVED SHELF READING
Draghi, A. Gli affreschi dell’Aula Gotica del monastero dei Santi Quattro Coronati. Una storia ritrovata, Milano, Skira 2007 – Study the photographs!