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.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 1(Introduction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>General overview of the course and introduction to the topic: definition of the discipline and its value as a valid instrument for Roman history. How was an inscription obtained? Supports, materials, techniques; the survival of ancient inscriptions; the “epigraphic habit”.</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapters 2 and 5</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td><strong>Session 3</strong> Elements of palaeography. Classification of different types of inscriptions. The Emperor’s titles: dedicatory inscriptions and triumphal arches</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapters 3 and 7</td>
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<td><strong>Session 4</strong> Course-related trip: Obelisks and honorific columns</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td><strong>Session 5</strong> History of the discipline: the corpora, how to use them</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 6</td>
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<td><strong>Session 6</strong> Course-related trip: Roman Forum (written displays in a public area)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Session 7</strong> The reading of an inscription: diacritical signs, reading, transcription, translation, interpretation, dating</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 4 and Appendix 5</td>
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<td><strong>Session 8</strong> Course-related trip: Terme di Diocleziano</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Session 9</strong> Who were the Romans? Names, identities and careers. Abbreviations in funerary, dedicatory, religious, military and administrative inscriptions</td>
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<td><strong>Session 10</strong> Course-related trip: Musei Capitolini-Galleria Lapidaria</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>Session 11</strong> Review Session for Midterm exam</td>
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<td><strong>Session 12</strong> Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>Session 13</strong> Everyday life through the inscriptions and social organization</td>
<td>Reading: Understanding Roman Inscriptions, chapter 13</td>
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<td><strong>Session 14</strong> Course-related trip: Musei vaticani, galleria lapidaria</td>
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### Week 8
- **Session 15**
  - Political life: The cursus honorum: path towards political career and its evolution throughout history.
Pompey’s graffiti and the electoral campaigns
- **Session 16**
  - Course-related trip: Roman Houses at the Celio

### Week 9
- **Session 17**
  - Religion through inscriptions: temples and altars
- **Session 18**
  - Course-related trip: Pantheon, Palazzo Altemps

### Week 10
- **Session 19**
  - The Roman Army: what was like to be a soldier in ancient Rome
- **Session 20**
  - Course-related trip: Porticus Octaviae-Bridges

### Week 11
- **Session 21**
  - The economic world of Rome
- **Session 22**
  - Course-related trip: S.Paolo Basilica (introducing late roman and christian epigraphy)

### Week 12
- **Session 23**
  - Review session for final exam
- **Session 24**
  - 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. Termi 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 (chiosstro)

### REQUIRED READINGS:

### 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.