



## AN/HS 236 EMPIRE BUILDING: HISTORY AND MYTH OF ANCIENT ROME

IES Abroad Rome

**DESCRIPTION:** The course is intended as a general overview on Roman history and will take into consideration the history of the city of Rome and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. The first part of the course will focus on the founding of the city and the birth of the Republic with a special attention to cultural, political and artistic achievements, which will be examined also through readings from Latin authors. From the early Empire to its collapse, the second part of the course will analyze the political expansion of the Empire with a more detailed look at the most significant emperors. Moreover, the army organization, the limes and the religious institutions will be also examined as fundamental elements of Roman history and culture.

**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 (10%);
- in-class or on-site presentations and final report (25%);
- midterm exam (30%);
- final exam (35%).

Format of the exam: Both midterm and final exams are composed of different sections which include true/false answers, multiple choice, matching words, picture identification and short essays.

Presentation: The topic of the presentation is chosen with the professor and can be delivered either in class or on a field study.

Report: a 5-page report based on the topic of the presentation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- identify the chronological sequence of ancient Rome history
- correctly link historical events to relevant monuments and topography of the city
- manage the general overview of the political development of ancient Rome
- recognize the connection between Roman art and architecture and political propaganda
- understand the significance of Roman culture and its impact on modern Western civilizations
- get acquainted with the main ancient and modern sources in order to be able 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, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. **Please note: 4 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade in case of an absence on a scheduled Academic Day Trip.** 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:**

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Week	Content	Readings
<b>Week 1</b>		
<b>Session 1</b>	General overview of the course, main chronological eras, sources.	Chapter II “The Unification of Italy”
<b>Session 2</b>	The founding of the city: Romulus, the Kings and the pre-Roman populations. The conquest of the Italian peninsula.	
<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>Session 3</b>	Social and political organization of early Rome.	Chapter II “The Class Struggle”
<b>Session 4</b>	The birth of the Republic: political institutions of the republican era. The everyday life: a day in ancient Rome.	
<b>Week 3</b>		
<b>Session 5</b>	The Etruscans: culture, religion and art.	
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> Etruscan Museum at Villa Giulia.	
<b>Week 4</b>		
<b>Session 7</b>	The conquest of the Greek world. The Punic Wars.	Chapter III “The Changing Roman World”, “The Invasion by Hannibal”
<b>Session 8</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> Roman Forum and Tullianum	
<b>Week 5</b>		
<b>Session 9</b>	The decline of the Republic: the Gracchi brothers, Gaius Marius, Sulla, Spartacus and the slave revolt.	Chapter IV “The New Society”, Chapter V “Reform and War in Italy”, “Reaction and Breakdown”
<b>Session 10</b>	<b>Museum of the Baths of Diocletian.</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>		
<b>Session 11</b>	Review session.	
<b>Session 12</b>	Mid Term exam.	
<b>Week 7</b>		
<b>Session 13</b>	The era of Julius Caesar	Chapter VI, “Caesar”, “Augustus”.
<b>Session 14</b>		

	The aftermath of Julius Caesar’s death: the rivalry between Marc Anthony and Octavian. Augustus and the beginning of an empire.	
<b>Week 8</b>		
<b>Session 15</b>	The Julio-Claudian emperors: Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero.	Chapter VII, “The Inheritors of Empire”, “Imperial Society”.
<b>Session 16</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> <i>Ara Pacis</i> & Mausoleum of Augustus	
<b>Week 9</b>		
<b>Session 17</b>	The Flavians, a new dynasty of emperors: Vespasian, Titus, Domitian.	Chapter VII, “The Jews, Jesus and Paul”, Chapter VIII “Collapse and Recovery”.
<b>Session 18</b>	The five good emperors: Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius; Imperial Rome: culture and life (Literature, Philosophy, Art).	
<b>Week 10</b>		
<b>Session 19</b>	The crisis of the Third Century: the Severans and the Constitutio Antoniniana	Chapter VIII, “The Climax of the Pagan Empire”, “Supreme State and Church”, Chapter IX “The Fall of the Western Empire”.
<b>Session 20</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> Imperial Fora.	
<b>Week 11</b>		
<b>Session 21</b>	The religious institutions and the influence of eastern religions. The spread of Christianity: the persecutions and the Constantine’s edict.	Chapter IX “The Fatal Disunities”, “The Aftermath”, “Epilogue”.
<b>Session 22</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> S. Clemente.	
<b>Week 12</b>		
<b>Session 23</b>	The decline and the collapse of the Roman empire. Review session	
<b>Session 24</b>	<b>Course-related trip:</b> Mausoleum of Santa Costanza, catacombs of S. Agnes	

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

In the following course-related trips, the archaeological sites, monuments and museums will be approached by focusing mainly on the specific historical related subjects which will be examined during classes:

- Capitoline Museums



- Museum of Palazzo Massimo
- Villa Giulia Museum
- The Etruscan Necropoleis of Cerveteri and Tarquinia (Friday, all day).
- Colosseum
- Ara Pacis and the Mausoleum of Augustus
- TBA

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Michael Grant, *The History of Rome*, Faber and Faber.

N. Kempel, "Looking at Gender: The Column of Trajan and Roman Historical Relief", in *Feminism in the Academy*, 1995, pp. 46-73.

E. Marlowe, "Framing the Sun: the Arch of Constantine and the Roman Cityscape", in *The Art Bulletin*, vol. 88, no. 2 (June 2006), pp. 223-242.

Anthology of Latin Writers and further readings will be indicated during the course.