Spring 2003
V 3250y: ROMAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Instructor:
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Hours: Wednesday 10-12 and by appointment.

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The course provides an introduction to the art and architecture of pre-Roman Italy and the Roman empire in a chronological structure within which specific themes can be brought into the foreground. Such themes include housing, urban development in an imperial context, the effects of social status and gender on the form and content of art, and the historically changing style of imperial portraits.

Requirements include midterm (30% of grade) and final examinations (30%), one 10 page paper (30%), and participation in discussion and museum trips (10%).

READINGS:
Textbook to be purchased at Labyrinth:

RESERVE BOOKS for the course are at Avery Art Library; use for reference and preparation of papers as well as for study.
Assignment and Bibliography

A short paper (10 pages) on the domestic architecture and decoration of Roman Britain. The paper should assess the nature of the evidence for a particular house or its decoration, the way the scholarly literature has discussed it, and the questions that still need to be asked about it. The literature will be in English, so you should have no trouble doing the research. You’ll find most of the material in Avery Art Library.

General background reading such as Martin Millett’s The Romanization of Britain, Martin Henig, Art of Roman Britain, or Shepherd Frere’s history of Britain, Britannia, will get you started. This will get you oriented, as will general books on Roman Britain or encyclopedia articles.

Your paper shouldn’t begin with background, but rather with a statement of the questions you think are important about the house or its decoration. Then you should proceed with a description of the material, the archaeological evidence and any ancient texts that may help in understanding it. From there, discuss the modern scholarly literature on the topic in order to place your own questions as part of a conversation about Roman Britain and its art and architecture. Your next section should attempt to answer the questions you’ve proposed as important. You should end not only with a conclusion but also with a discussion of what other materials one would need in order to answer the questions more securely or of what other questions one might still ask about the material.

Every paper should have full footnoting or endnoting, using a standard format of your choice, and it should have a bibliography of at least 15 items, not including encyclopedia articles, textbooks and survey books, and non-specialized web sites. There are good websites but it’s not always easy to decide what they are. The academic sites with bibliography are pretty reliable, as when you find a course on Roman Britain with a web site from a British university, for example, but there are lots of sites by very nice English people who collect widgets of the Roman period and convey misinformation about them on their sites. If you are in any doubt about a site, ask one of the T.A.s to look at it for you.

Below is some bibliography to help you begin.

Theories about Housing and Domestic Architecture:


**General Books on Domestic Architecture in the Roman World:**

**Regional Studies:**

You’ll find much much more if you consult local archaeological journals in the region you work on; be sure to look at the following:
1. Britannia
2. Journal of Roman Studies
3. Journal of Roman Archaeology
4. Antiquity
5. British Archaeological Reports
6. Oxford Journal of Archaeology

THIS PAPER IS DUE APRIL 29. 30% of grade.

2. EXAMINATIONS
   Midterm (MARCH 13 ) 30% of grade
   Final examination (MAY ?) 30% of grade.

3. PARTICIPATION in class discussions and attendance at special events TBA. 10% of grade.
Course schedule

Jan. 21: Introduction

Jan. 23: The Art and Architecture of the Roman Republic I

Jan. 28: The Art and Architecture of the Roman Republic II:
   Be sure to have read Feeney’s *Literature and Religion* by now.

Jan. 30: The Art and Architecture of the Roman Republic III

Feb. 4: Art under Augustus I:
   DISCUSSION OF Zanker, “The Augustan Program of Cultural
   Renewal,” *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*.

Feb. 6: Art under Augustus II

Feb. 11: Art under Augustus III

Feb. 13: Gaul and Provincial Art in the Early Empire

Feb. 18: Julio-Claudian Art

Feb. 20: Art and architecture of Pompeii.
   DISCUSSION of Y. Thebert, “Some Theoretical Considerations” and
   *Private and Public Spaces: The Components of the Domus,* in
   D’Ambra

Feb. 25: Roman Wall Painting of the first centuries

Feb. 27: Flavian Art and Architecture

March 4: Art under Trajan in Rome

March 6: Funerary Art in the second century
   DISCUSSION of Susan Wood, “Alcestis on Roman Sarcophagi,” in
   D’Ambra.

Mar. 11: Art under Trajan in Italy and the Provinces

Mar. 13: Midterm Examination
Mar. 18 and 20: Spring Break

Mar. 25: Art under Hadrian I: Classical Ideas

March 27: Art under Hadrian II: Ostia and issues of social status
DISCUSSION of Kampen, “Social Status and Gender in Roman Art,”
in D’Ambra

Apr. 1: Roman Britain

Apr. 3: State art in the Antonine Period

Apr. 8: Art and architecture of Asia Minor and North Africa in the later 2nd century.

April 10: The Severan dynasty and its art.

Apr. 12: The northern provinces in the third century.

Apr. 17: No Class

Apr. 22: Art and architecture in the later third century I: Rome
DISCUSSION of S. Nodelman, “How to read a Roman portrait,” and “Postscript” in D’Ambra.

Apr. 24: Art and architecture in the later third century II: Dura Europos

PAPERS DUE TODAY.

May 1: Art under Constantine: The Arch.
Bibliographic Resources

I. Data Bases and On-Line Resources

DYABOLA: CD-ROM bibliography of periodical literature (journal articles and reviews, all scholarly) in English, French, German, Spanish, and other languages mainly on Greek, Etruscan and Roman art and archaeology. It is put out by the German Archaeological Institute and has its categories in German, so bring a dictionary. You may use this most easily at Butler Library; ask for help from the Reference Desk and they’ll show you how to use it. Now DYABOLA is available on the net but you need a password to enter, so ask at the reference desk and if they don’t have one, ask that they get it asap.

PERSEUS: An on-line resource for classical mainly Greek materials of an encyclopedic range; texts, maps, works of art and architecture are here with information. Again, use at Butler.

II. General Resources:

Oxford Classical Dictionary: entries on all sorts of issues and individuals from the Greek and Roman worlds.

Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae: an iconographic encyclopedia of myths and mythological figures with full information about images and textual references. Entries are in French, German, Italian and English. You’ll find this at Avery in the Reference section.

Paulys Realencyclopdie der Altertumswissenschaft: the original German encyclopedia of everything about the Greek and Roman world.

Enciclopedia dell’Arte Classica: a 1960’s era encyclopedia of Greek, Etruscan and Roman art in Italian.
Amendments to the Syllabus: Roman Art and Architecture

Midterm exam: March 13

Term paper due: April 29

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