

**ROME, CA. 300-1300**

(W 3909 )

Spring 2002

Tuesday, 6:10-8:00 pm

Schermerhorn Hall, Room 934

Prof. Holger Klein

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903 Schermerhorn Hall (854-3230)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00-10:30 a.m. and by appointment

**BULLETIN DESCRIPTION**

Explores the art and architecture of Early Christian and Medieval Rome from the reign of Constantine the Great to the creation of the first Jubilee in 1300.

**COURSE RATIONALE**

While the Department of Art History and Archaeology has offered seminars and lecture courses on various aspects of Roman, Early Christian and Medieval Art and Architecture in the past, the city of Rome has, to my knowledge, not been the focus of an undergraduate seminar for at least a decade. The last course offered on a related subject was an advanced-level lecture course entitled *Rome in the Middle Ages*, taught in 1992 and 1995. It is the purpose of this course to close this gap by introducing undergraduate students to the rich artistic and architectural heritage of Rome's Late Antique, Early Christian, and Medieval past. While the syllabus is arranged chronologically, the seminar is not conceived as a survey course in the strict sense. The artistic and architectural history of the city rather provides a basic framework for the study of the most important Early Christian and Medieval monuments and the religious and political context in which they were created. The main text book used for this course is Richard Krautheimer's *Rome. Profile of a City 328-1308*, which will provide students with a sound introduction to the city's history and monuments. This text will be supplemented by more specific readings that focus both on the monuments themselves and the historical and political context in which they were created.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As the capital of the Roman Empire, home to the popes, and final resting place of a multitude of pious saints and martyrs, the city of Rome presents us with an unique and multilayered history. Spanning about a millennium from the time of the first 'Christian' emperor Constantine the Great to the creation of the first Jubilee Year in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII, this undergraduate seminar will serve as an introduction to the most important monuments of Rome's Early Christian and Medieval past and explore the

social, political, and artistic context from which they emerged. Emphasis will be placed on the role Imperial Roman art played in the formation and establishment of the Christian artistic tradition, the emergence of Rome as the city of the popes and most important center of Christianity in Western Europe, and the rise of the cult of saints, their relics, and images in the Early Middle-Ages. Themes of the seminar will further include the meaning of architectural symbolism, the relation between architecture and liturgy, the relevance of pictorial narrative in the monumental decoration of churches, and the role of icons in civic life.

### **EVALUATION**

The final grade will be determined by a midterm exam (20%), a formal slide presentation of a chosen research topic in class at the end of the semester (30%), and a final paper based on the topic presented in class (30%). Regular attendance, the preparation of smaller assignments, and participation in class discussions will account for an additional 20% of the final grade.

### **READINGS**

The texts required for the preparation of the class are available at the Reserve Desk at Avery Library. The main text books for the class are:

- J. ELSNER, Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph, Oxford 1998
- H. KESSLER/J. ZACHARIAS, Rome 1300. On the Path of the Pilgrim, New Haven 2000
- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, Princeton<sup>3</sup>2000
- T. MATHEWS, The Clash of Gods, Princeton [revised and expanded] 1999

These books are available for purchase at **Labyrinth Books**, 536 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **CALENDAR**

January 22

#### **I. Introduction**

January 29

#### **II. Imperial Rome and the Rise of Christianity**

- M. MASS, Readings in Late Antiquity, London 2000, pp. 22-34
- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Three Christian Capitals, Berkeley 1983, pp. 6-40
- J. ELSNER, Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph, pp. 1-23

February 5

#### **III. Art and Death**

- J. STEVENSON, The Catacombs: Rediscovered Monuments of Early Christianity, London 1978, pp. 7-44; 55-108

- W. TRONZO, The Via Latina Catacomb: Imitation and Discontinuity in fourth-century Roman Painting, University Park, pp. 51-70
- J. ELSNER, Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph, pp. 145-165
- E. MALBON, The Iconography of the Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus, Princeton 1990

February 12

#### **IV. Changing Faith: Rome in the Age of Constantine**

- H. POHLSANDER, The Emperor Constantine, London 1996, 1-44
- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 3-31
- A. GRABAR, Christian Iconography: A Study of its Origins, Princeton 1968, pp. 31-51
- J. TOYNBEE and J. WARD-PERKINS, The Shrine of Saint Peter and the Vatican Excavations, New York 1957, pp. 195-239

February 19

#### **V. Society and the Sacred in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries**

- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 32-58
- T. MATHEWS, The Clash of Gods, pp. 3-22; 92-114
- P. BROWN, "Review: T. Mathews, The Clash of Gods", in: Art Bulletin 77 (1995), pp. 499-502

February 26

#### **VI. Reading Medieval Narrative**

- H. KESSLER, "Pictures as Scriptures in Fifth-Century Churches", in: Studia Artium Orientalis et Occidentalis 2 (1985), pp. 17-35
- W. TRONZO, "The Prestige of St. Peter's: Observations on the Function of Monumental Narrative Cycles in Italy", in: H. Kessler and M. Shreve Simpson (ed.), Pictorial Narrative in Antiquity and the Middle Ages (Studies in the History of Art 16), Washington 1986, pp. 93-112
- W. KEMP, "Narrative", in: R. Nelson and R. Shiff (ed.), Critical Terms for Art History, pp. 58-69

March 5 **HK away – class will be rescheduled**

#### **VII. Rome between East and West – The Case of Santa Maria Antiqua**

- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 89-108
- H. BELTING, Likeness and Presence, Chicago 1994, pp. 47-77; 115-143

March 12

#### **VIII. Papal Patronage in the Age of Charlemagne**

- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 109-142
- M. MAUCH, "The Mosaics of the Triumphal Arch of S. Prassede: A Liturgical Interpretation" in: Speculum 62 (1987), pp. 813-828
- J. MCCULLOH, "From Antiquity to the Middle Ages: Continuity and Change in Papal Relic Policy from the Sixth to the Eighth Centuries", in: Pietas. Festschrift für B. Kötting, Münster 1980, pp. 313-324

March 19 **Spring Break**

March 26

**IX. Renaissance and Renewal: Rome in the Twelfth Century**

- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 161-202
- H. BELTING, Likeness and Presence, Chicago 1994, pp. 311-329; 498-502
- W. TRONZO, “Apse Decoration, the Liturgy and the Perception of Art in Medieval Rome: Santa Maria in Trastevere and Santa Maria Maggiore” in: Italian Church Decoration of the Middle Ages and Early Renaissance, Bologna 1989, pp. 167-193

April 2

**X. In Search of the Holy: Nicholas III, Renovatio, and Roman Identity**

- R. KRAUTHEIMER, Rome. Profile of a City 312-1308, pp. 203-228
- J. GARDNER, “Patterns of Papal Patronage circa 1260 to circa 1300”, in: C. RYAN (ed.), The Religious Roles of the Papacy: Ideals and Realities 1150-1300, Toronto 1989, pp. 439-456
- D. BIRCH, Pilgrimage to Rome in the Middle Ages, Woodbridge 1998, pp. 187-202
- H. KESSLER, Rome 1300, pp. 1-3; 38-64

April 9

**XIII. Student Papers**

April 16

**XII. Student Papers**

April 23

**XIII. Student Papers**

April 30

**XIV. Student Papers**

**Reading and Study Days**