



ANCIENT TO BAROQUE ROME

Instructor

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Description

The course is an introductory survey to key historical monuments of Rome, ancient through Baroque. We will consider the function of monuments in the urban fabric and how their design met the social and religious needs of people in the past. We will place particular attention on the importance of viewers in the past and the ephemeral nature of experiencing sites in Rome. Students will be introduced to archaeological and art historical methods of description, analysis, and interpretation. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the chronological layers of the city.

Objectives

To demonstrate a command of the key monuments in Rome: cite and employ facts concerning architecture, artworks, dates, etc.; relate these facts to historical contexts relevant to the architecture and artwork; and explain basic art and architecture-related terms and techniques.

To cultivate the analytical and intellectual capacities necessary to engage with historical monuments: to report an objective observation and description; to appraise works of architecture and art through critical analytical methods, particularly formal analysis and iconographical analysis; and to formulate interpretations of works of architecture and art.

To develop competent written skills, especially in the form of site based in-class writing assignments and a Research Journal assignment which require the close examination of documents and monuments.

Structure

Weekly lectures and readings introduce students to key historical background, sites, and comparative materials. Site visits allow extended looking and discussion of monuments. Students draw and write on-site. A Research Journal invites students to tackle specific historical issues from ancient to Baroque. A comprehensive Final Exam will test comprehension of course content and allow for reflection on the outcome of the Research Journal.

