ART 381H.01: Roman and Early Christian Art in Context

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Art 381H.01
Roman and Early Christian Art (LS 341.01, MCLG 361.01), 3 credits, Pre-requisites: Art 150H or 151H or consent of instructor
Fall 2007

Instructor Information: Professor H. Rafael Chacón
Office Hours: Tues. 9-11 AM and Wed. 2-4 PM (Room 202, x.2735, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu). Messages may also be left in my box in the Department of Art Office (FA 305).

Class Meetings: 11:10-12:30 PM, Tues. and Thurs., Fine Arts, Room 302

Student-Learning Goals in Art History:
The following represent the goals of the art history and criticism curriculum:

- Art History: to gain a comprehensive and global view of the development of history and culture; to understand that art is a manifestation of intellectual history; and to study the various methodologies used to gain that knowledge.
- Visual Literacy and Language: to develop knowledge of visual language and the terminology needed for the analysis and discussion of works of art.
- Technical Skills: to learn the range of materials and technical applications employed by artists over time.
- Critical Thinking: to gain knowledge of and competence in critically analyzing visual images, past and present, and to express their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

Course Description: This course is an exploration of the development of Roman art from its earliest roots to the early Christian period and the collapse of the empire.

Course Objectives and Format: I teach this course in a lecture format, but I encourage open, frank, and fair discussion in the classroom. The syllabus below is arranged thematically and on a weekly basis. Discussions and debates often develop lives of their own and sometimes unfinished work spills over into the next session.

Requirements and Grading Policies:
Good performance in this class and in art history in general rests on the ability to develop a grasp of hundreds of images representing the creative output of a particular people during a specific period of time and to analyze texts that illuminate their creative process. You will be expected to engage the ideas that motivated and/or shaped their artistic endeavors, to stay abreast of the readings, to share your thoughts and ideas with the class, and participate fully in all class activities.

Text and Readings: There will be one textbook: Fred S. Kleiner’s A History of Roman Art. I shall always let you know where we are on the syllabus, but stay abreast of the readings because you will be called upon in class and the text will inevitably show up in examinations. Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare in advance of the discussions.

Participation: 30% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion. I expect at least 85% attendance and occasional participation to earn a "C" and 95-100% participation with consistent and thoughtful contribution to class discussion for an "A". Participation may count for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor. Improvement over the course of the quarter will be registered in the final grade.

Quizzes: There will be two quizzes during the semester covering class
discussions and readings. The quizzes are worth 30% of your grade.

Papers and Project: You will work in small teams (4-6 people) in researching an assigned topic. A paper from each individual and a presentation to the class on the results of the research will be required from each team. Papers will be revised and resubmitted for the final grade. Please be advised that I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS. The paper and project are worth 50% of your grade.

**GRADES:**
- Participation: 30% 300 points
- Quizzes (2): 20% 200 pts.
- Paper & Project: 50% 500 pts.

**Total:** 100% 1000 pts.

**Access/Special Needs/Disabilities:**
If you have any access concerns, special needs, and/or learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

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**Syllabus**

**Week 1 Aug. 28 & 31**
**Introduction: Geography and History**

**Week 2 Sept. 4 & 6**
**Early History of Rome**
Readings: Kleiner, Chapter I.
**MIDTERM PAPER AND PROJECT will be assigned in class.**

**Week 3 Sept. 11 & 13**
**The Republican City: Pompeii**
Kleiner, Chapters II, III, and X.

**Week 4 Sept. 18 & 20**
**Tuesday, September 18, NO CLASS, BFA Portfolio Review**
**From Marcellus to Julius Caesar**
Kleiner, Chapter IV.

**Week 5 Sept. 25 & 27**
**Tuesday, September 25, Quiz #1**
**Julius Caesar and Augustus**
Kleiner, Chapter V.

**Week 6 Oct. 2 & 4**
**A Funerary Culture**
Kleiner, Chapters VI and XV.

**Week 7 Oct. 9 & 11 MIDSEMESTER**
**Tuesday, October 9, NO CLASS SCHEDULED.**
**MIDTERM PAPER DUE IN DEPT. OFFICE BY 5:00 PM. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Thursday, October 11**
**The Roman Provinces: West and East**
Kleiner, Chapters VII and XVII.
Week 8  Oct. 16 & 18
The Julio-Claudians
Kleiner, Chapter VIII.

Week 9  Oct. 23 & 25
The Flavians and Nerva
Kleiner, Chapter IX.
Tuesday, October 23, REVISED PAPERS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Week 10  Oct. 30 & Nov. 1
Trajan
Kleiner, Chapter XI.

Week 11  Nov. 6 & 8
Hadrian
Kleiner, Chapter XII.

Week 12  Nov. 13 & 15
The Antonines and the Severans
Kleiner, Chapters XIII and XVI.

Week 13 Nov. 20
Soldier Emperors and the Tetrarchy
Kleiner, Chapters XVIII and XIX.
Thursday, November 22, Thanksgiving, NO CLASS.

Week 14  Nov. 27 & 29
Tuesday, November 27, Review
Thursday, November 29, Quiz #2.

Week 15  Dec. 4 & 6
Constantine and the Early Christians
Kleiner, Chapter XX.

Finals Week, Tuesday, December 11, 10:10-12:10 AM