UC Davis Seminars Abroad

Rome: Art and the City

December 16-30, 2019

AHI 198, 2 units, P/NP grading only

No prerequisites

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**Course content and goals**: Broadly speaking, art and architecture relate what we see to what we believe in. Religion, politics, social structure, family life, romance, and eroticism are visualized especially often. Unique among the world’s great cities, Rome embodies these relationships across the historical span of Western art and architecture from the ancient Mediterranean era (to about 300 C.E./A.D.), through the Middle Ages (c. 300 - c. 1400), to the Renaissance and Early Modern periods (c. 1400 - c. 1800), and into the contemporary world. The class will meet entirely on site with a lecture/discussion format. These meetings will develop skills of close, critical looking at the design and function of artworks and buildings. There are no pre-requisites.

**Graded work**: For most people, the submitted work will be daily write-ups about an artwork or building of your choice from each day’s site visits. The write-ups will compare and contrast what you can see of the work’s original purpose, and the beliefs it may have expressed, with your own values and beliefs. You are welcome to make photos and/or sketches (subject to museum rules), which may be included if they are integral to your write-up. The write-ups should be short: five or six thoughtful sentences are better than a page that only describes what you saw. Digital and hard copy formats are both accepted.

**Graded work options**: Instead of daily write-ups, you may choose one of these larger projects to serve your own study plan. (1) Use the daily write-ups as source material for an essay about one artwork or monument, or a closely related group of works or monuments (consult with instructor about the choice). Choose this option to use the essay either as a writing sample for grad school or grant applications, or as the starting point for a senior thesis. Use free time for multiple visits to your subject(s). (2) Submit a group of photos, drawings, or other visual media (consult with instructor) that develop a clearly defined theme, along with a short essay that explains the theme and that critiques your own visual work. Use free time for multiple visits to a limited number of subjects. (3) Use material seen on our itineraries (as in Option 2, and consult with the instructor) as the framework for a film prospectus. Passing will require substantive and thoughtful integration of the site material with the proposal.

**Session attendance** has not been a problem at Study Abroad courses but, for the record, attendance is required: NP for anyone who misses more than three sessions without medical excuse.

**Reading**: You have been given the Lonely Planet guide. Georgina Masson, *Companion Guide to Rome*, is strongly recommended for background. It’s an enjoyably written overview of the city rather than a step-by-step tour guide. It’s available as a used paperback, and since it is not a guidebook older editions are fine.

Adjusted **CALENDAR**, as of 16 December 2019. Itineraries depend on weather: indoor visits on rainy days, out door visits on dry days.

Monday, December 16: Arrival in Rome, meet in lobby of Hotel Colosseum at 5:00 p.m. for orientation.

Tuesday, December 17: **Around the Colosseum**

The Colosseum, **RESERVATION 10:00 a.m.** (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Basilica of San Clemente (9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 3 – 6 p.m.)

Arch of Constantine

Wednesday, December 18: **Roman Forum**

Roman Forums and Palatine Hill (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. every day except Christmas & New Year).

Trajan’s Market & Museo dei Fori Imperiali (9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., closes 2 p.m. Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve)

Thursday, December 19, **RAIN** expected: **Galleria Nazionale Palazzo Barberini** (8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. CLOSED Mondays)

Santa Maria della Vittoria (8:30 – 12:00 a.m., 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.; Sundays p.m. only. Daily masses at 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Sunday masses at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Noon, 6:30 p.m.)

Friday, December 20, **RAIN** possible:  **Vatican Museums I; St Peter’s Basilica**

**Museums RESERVATION for 10:00 a.m., BRING STUDENT ID!**

(Morning: gather in hotel for pre-visit lecture about the Sistine Chapel)

Sistine Chapel and the old palace: Raphael rooms, Pinturicchio rooms (Monday-Saturday, 8:45 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

St. Peter’s Basilica (daily 7:00 am. – 6:00 p.m.)

Saturday, December 21 **RAIN** likely: **The Quirinal Hill**

S. Carlo alle 4 Fontane (10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Saturday)

S. Andrea al Quirinale (8:30 a.m. – noon, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday-

Saturday; 9:00 a.m. – Noon, 3:00 – 6:00 Sundays & holidays; CLOSED

Mondays)

**Scuderie del Quirinale, Exhibition “Pompeii e Santorini”** (10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 22, **RAIN** possible: **Museo Nazionale Palazzo Massimo alle Terme** (9:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m., CLOSED Mondays)

Monday, December 23: **Vatican Museums II**.

Vatican Museums galleries, **RESERVATION 10 a.m., BRING STUDENT ID!** (Monday-Saturday, 8:45 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., closes early Christmas eve)

Tuesday, December 24: **Villa Borghese**

Villa Borghese gardens (dawn – sunset)

Galleria Borghese, **RESERVATION 9:00 a.m.** (Tuesday-Sunday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., reservations only)

Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., CLOSED Mondays, Christmas, New Year’s)

Wednesday, December 25 **RAIN** possible: Bonus visit to the **Palazzo delle Esposizioni,** for special exhibitions: Anatomy and art; underground art in Hungary after the Soviet invasion of 1956; the special-effects designer of “ET” and “Alien”

Thursday, December 26: **Piazza Navona area**

S. Luigi dei Francesi (9:30 – 12:45, 2:30 – 6:30; Sunday open at 11:30)

Piazza Navona

Museo di Roma Palazzo Braschi: Canova exhibit (10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., CLOSED Mondays)

Chiostro del Bramante: Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud et al. (10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. daily)

Friday, December 27: Weather permitting, **excursion to** **Orvieto**

Cathedral (interior open 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.; Cappella di San Brizio 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 – 5:00. Interior best light in the morning; sculptured façade best light in the afternoon)

Cathedral museum (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 5:00, CLOSED

Tuesdays)

Saturday, December 28: **Pantheon to Palazzo Doria**

Pantheon (9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

S. Maria sopra Minerva (7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7:30 – 12:30 and 3:30 – 7 p.m. Saturday & Sunday)

Il Gesu (7:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m., 4:30 – 19:30 p.m.)

Palazzo Doria Pamphilj (9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 24 December, closed Christmas day)

Sunday, December 29: **Capitoline Hill**

Piazza del Campidoglio

Capitoline Museums **RESERVATION \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** (9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. CLOSED Mondays; 9:30 – 14:00 on Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve). Special note: **NOT HEATED**

Monday, December 30: Departure

Back-up visits near hotel:

Santa Maria Maggiore (7:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m. daily; Sacristy hours 7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

Santa Prassede (7:00 a.m. – Noon, 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. daily)

San Pietro in Vincoli with Michelangelo’s *Moses* (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

Terme (Baths) di Diocleziano (9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., CLOSED Mondays )

Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli (7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.,)