

Arcadia University Center for Italian Studies ROMA ARRB 310 From Rome to Baghdad: Change and Continuity in the Ancient Mediterranean

4 credits

Course description.

This course intends to reconstruct the historical and cultural processes that transformed dramatically the Mediterranean world from the later Roman age to the early Arabic period (3rd-8th cent. AD). This reconstruction will be based upon archaeological and literary evidence. It will give the students an insight in the complexity of the developments that re-shaped the political, religious, economic and cultural relations in the region, with particular regard for the events in Italy, Constantinople, Northern Africa and the Near East. The role of the rulers (emperors, kings, caliphs), the elite and the clergy in the shaping of the new Mediterranean will be highlighted. The course will further explore the effects of the forced cohabitation between Romans, Germanic populations, Byzantines and Arabs in the new order of the Mediterranean world. Special attention will also be given to the major urban centres and the way they interacted with the surrounding countryside.

Every week a different aspect of this transformation will be discussed in a class lecture alternated by a site visit in Rome in which the impact of the changes in Italy and the Mediterranean on the old capital of the Roman empire will be investigated. A weekend trip to Ravenna, capital of the western Roman empire, of the Germanic kingdom of Italy and of the Byzantine territories in Italy is also scheduled.

Midterm exam, paper and final exam.

Course objectives

The students must first of all become aware of the chronological dimension of a historical process based upon the model of cause and effect. They must be able to distinguish between ancient and modern sources. Therefore, they must learn to use both groups in a critical way, understanding the potential and limits of each one of the two groups. The students must also gain knowledge about the geographical details of the history of the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity. They must become familiar with its protagonists, whether individuals or groups, and their impact on the course of events. Further, they must see the fundamental differences between the different forms of government and their characteristics. They must therefore know the institutions of the state, their working and their evolution in time. Finally, the students must be able to understand the continuous contacts that have existed all across the Mediterranean and beyond.

Course requirements and grading policy

Paper.

Choice of topic is free but must be agreed upon with instructor. 8-10 pages, double spaced, end or foot notes, illustrations (if necessary) and bibliography, due Tuesday, April 24th by the time of class in two copies (electronic and printed).

Midterm and Final Exam.

The midterm exam (Tuesday, March 13th) and final exam (Tuesday, May 15th) will be based upon the class notes, readings and other information that the students have received during the lectures and site visits. The exams will ask for a combination of short and long answers. The final exam is cumulative with an emphasis upon the material of the second half of the semester.

Arcadia University Center for Italian Studies ROMA ARRB 310

Grading and grading scale.
Midterm exam 25%
Paper 25%
Final exam 50%

A > 80 % of total points

A- 75-79 %

B+ 70-74 %

B 65-69 %

B- 60-64 %

C+ 55-59 %

C 50-54 %

C- 45-49 %

D+ 40-44 %

D 35-39 %

D- 30-34 %

F < 30 %

Disability Disclosure: Any student who has need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the office in Rome.

Week 1. Part 1. The later Roman empire.

Classroom lecture. Intro. An empire at risk: the age of the soldier emperors (235-285 AD).

Field trip. Rome in the 3rd cent. AD: from the arch of Septimius Severus to the Aurelian wall.

Week 2. READING: **KRAUTHEIMER R.**, *Rome. Profile of a City, 312-1308*, Princeton, 1980, Ch. 1, p. 5-31.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 1. From crisis to recovery: the age of the tetrarchs and the rise to power of Constantine (285-312 AD). Field trip. The building programs of Diocletian, Maxentius and the arch of Constantine.

Week 3. READING: **KRAUTHEIMER R.**, Rome. Profile of a City, 312-1308, Princeton, 1980, Ch. 2. The Christianization of Rome and the Romanization of Christianity, p. 32-58.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 2. The reign of Constantine (312-337 AD) and the Christianisation of the urban landscape of Rome.

Field trip. Imperial and private church foundations: s. John in Lateran and s. Clemente.

Week 4. READING: **KRAUTHEIMER R.**, *Three Christian Capitals. Topography and Politics*, Berkely-Los Angeles, 1983, p. 69-92.

LIM R., Christian Triumph and Controversy, in: BOWERSOCK G.W., BROWN P., GRABAR O. (edd.), Late Antiquity. A Guide to the Postclassical World, Cambridge (Mass.) – London, 1999, p. 196-218.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 3. Dividing the Empire: the reigns of Theodosius I, Honorius and Arcadius (379-423AD).

Shifting gravity points I: Milan and Carthage.

Week 5. READINGS: MOORHEAD J., The Roman Empire Divided, 400-700, Harlow, 2001, Ch. 2. The Western Mediterranean till the Mid-Sixth Century, p. 35-65. POHL W., Invasions and ethnic identity, in: LA ROCCA Cristina, Italy in the Early Middle Ages 476-1000, (The Short Oxford History of Italy), Oxford, 2002, p. 11-33.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 4. The "fall" of the Roman Empire and "barbarian" rule in the West (5^{th} - 6^{th} c. AD).

Field trip. Rome in the fifth century: s. Paul's outside the walls and sta. Maria Maggiore.

Week 6. Part 2. The Byzantine empire (6th-8th cent.)

READING: **HORDON Peregrine, PURCELL N**., *The Corrupting Sea. A Study of Mediterranean History*, Malden-Oxford-Carlton, 2000, *Introduction and Ch. 1*, *A Geographical Expression*, p. 1-49.

MOORHEAD J., *The Roman Empire Divided, 400-700,* Harlow, 2001, Ch. 7. *The East to 661*, p. 186-216.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 1. The Byzantine empire: politics, religion and economy. An archaeological appraisal.

Shifting gravity points II, 1: Constantinople.

Week 7.

Midterm exam.

READING: **MILBURN R.,** *Early Christian Art and Architecture*, Aldershot, 1988, Ch. 10. *Ravenna*, p. 167-182. **Field trip.** Weekend trip to Ravenna *Shifting gravity points II, 2: Ravenna*.

Week 8.

Classroom lecture. Chapter 2. Byzantines and Lombards in early medieval Italy (6th c.-8th c. AD). "This place isn't big enough for the two of us"

Week 9. READING: **GELICHI S.,** The Cities, in: **LA ROCCA Cristina,** Italy in the Early Middle Ages 476-1000, (The Short Oxford History of Italy), Oxford, 2002, p. 168-188.

ROSKAMS S., *Urban transition in North Africa: Roman and Medieval Towns of the Maghreb*, in: CHRISTIE N., LOSEBY S.T. (edd.), *Towns in Transition: Urban Evolution in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, 1996, p. 159-183. *Field trip* to the Crypta Balbi museum, ss. Cosma e Damiano and the chapel of s. Venantius at s. John in Lateran.

Meet at 2:00 at the medieval tower in Largo Argentina

Week 10.

Field trip to s. Lorenzo fuori le mura and s. Agnese. Meet at 2:00 at the Termini railway station.

Week 11.

Semester break. No class.

Week 12.

Part 3. The reign of Charlemagne. (8th-9th cent. AD)

Classroom lecture. The Franks and Italy: The king, the pope and the emperor. *Field trip* to s. John in Lateran and sta. Prassede.

Week 13.

READING: **KENNEDY H.,** The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates. The Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century, 1986, 2004, Ch. 1. The Matrix of the Muslim World: The Near East in the Early Seventh Century, p. 1-14; Ch. 2. The Birth of the Islamic State, p. 15-49.

Part 4. The rise of Islam. (7th-9th cent. AD)

Classroom lecture. The Arabs, Mohammed and the conquest of the Eastern Mediterranean and Northern Africa.

Week 14.

Public Holiday. No class.

MAKE UP! *Shifting gravity points III*: Constantinople, Damascus and Bagdad. *Field trip.* Lombard Italy. Visit to the Museum of the Early Middle Ages in EUR.

Week 15.

READING: **HODGES R., WHITEHOUSE D.,** *Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe. Archaeology and the Pirenne Thesis,* Ithaca, 1983, 1996 (5th printing), p. 1-19, 123-157.

Classroom lecture. Conclusion: Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Mediterranean world after Rome.

Week 16.

Final exam.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Use of laptops is allowed for note taking only (and not for updating your facebook page or reply to your e-mails).

Possible changes to the syllabus will be communicated as soon as possible to the students by mouth or by e-mail.

Arcadia University Center for Italian Studies ROMA ARRB 310

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BOWERSOCK G.W., BROWN P., GRABAR O., Late Antiquity. A Guide to the Postclassical World, Cambridge (Mass)-London, 1999. Landman Library

BROGLIOLO G.P., WARD-PERKINS B.(edd.), *The Idea and Ideal of the Town between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, Leiden, 1999.

BROWN P.R.L., The World of Late Antiquity, London, 1971. Landman Library

CAMERON Averil, *The later Roman Empire, AD 284-430*, Hammersmith, London : Fontana Press, 1993. *Landman Library*

CAMERON A., *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity, AD 395-600*, London-NY, 1993, repr. 1996. CORMACK R., *Byzantine Art, (Oxford History of Art)*, Oxford-NY, 2000.

COULSTON J., DODGE H. (edd.), Ancient Rome: The Archaeology of the Eternal City, (Oxford University School of Archaeology. Monograph 54), Oxford, 2000.

CHADWICK H., *The Early Church, (Pelican History of the Church, 1)*, Harmondsworth, 1967, repr. 1984. *Landman Library*

CHRISTIE N., From Constantine to Charlemagne. An Archaeology of Italy, AD 300-800, Aldershot-Burlington, 2006. Landman Library

CHRISTIE N., LOSEBY S.T. (edd.), Towns in Transition: Urban Evolution in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, Aldershot, 1996.

CURRAN J., Pagan City and Christian Capital: Rome in the Fourth Century, Oxford, 2001.

Donatist martyr stories: the church in conflict in Roman north Africa, translated with notes and introduction by Maureen A. Tilley, Liverpool, 1996.

ELSNER J., Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph, (Oxford History of Art), Oxford-NY, 1998.

FRANCOVICH R., HODGES R., Villa to Village. The Transformation of the Roman Countryside in Italy, c. 400-1000, (Duckworth Debates in Archaeology), London, 2003.

HEATHER P., The Fall of the Roman Empire. A New History of Rome and the Barbarians, Oxford, 2005 webaccess Landman Library

HODGES R., WHITEHOUSE D., *Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe*, London, 1983. HORDON Peregrine, PURCELL N., *The Corrupting Sea. A Study of Mediterranean History*, Malden-

Oxford-Carlton, 2000. Landman Library

HORTON M., WIEDEMANN Th., *North Africa from Antiquity to Islam*. Papers of a Conference held at Bristol, October 1994, Bristol, 1995.

KENNEDY H., The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates: The Islamic Near East from the 6th to the 11th Century (A History of the Near East),

KOCH G., Early Christian Art and Architecture. An Introduction, London, 1996.

KOENIGSBERGER H.G., Medieval Europe, 400-1500, Longman, NY, 1987.

KRAUTHEIMER R., Rome. Profile of a City, 312-1308, Princeton, 1980. Landman Library Rome office

KRAUTHEIMER R., Three Christian Capitals. Topography and Politics, Berkeley-Los Angeles-London, 1983.

LA ROCCA Christina (ed.), *Italy in the Early Middle Ages 476-1000, (The Short Oxford History of Italy)*, Oxford, 2002.

LEE A.D., Pagans and Christians in Late Antiquity: a Sourcebook, London-NY, 2000. Landman Library L'ORANGE H.P., Art Forms and Civic Life in the Late Roman Empire, Princeton, 1965. Landman Library LOVERANCE Rowena, Byzantium, British Museum, 1988.

LOWDEN J., Early Christian and Byzantine Art, London, 1997. Landman Library

MACMULLEN R., Voting About God in Early Church Councils, New Haven-London, 2006. Landman Library

MAAS M., Readings in Late Antiquity, (Routledge Sourcebooks for the Ancient World), 2009.

MAINSTONE R.J., Hagia Sophia. Architecture, Structure and Liturgy of Justinian's Great Church, NY, 1997.

MANGO C., Byzantine Architecture, NY, 1976.

MATHEWS T.F., The Early Churches of Constantinople, London, repr. 1990.

MATHEWS Th. F., *The Clash of the Gods. A reinterpretation of Early Christian art*, Princeton Univ Pr, 1993.

MATHISEN R.W., SHANZER D., Romans, Barbarians, and the Transformation of the Roman World. Cultural Interaction and the Creation of Identity in Late Antiquity, Farnham, 2011. webaccess Landman

Arcadia University Center for Italian Studies

ROMA ARRB 310

Library

MAUSKOPF DELIYANNIS D., Ravenna in Late Antiquity, 2010.

McCORMACK S.G., Art and Ceremony in Late Antiquity, Berkeley, 1981.

MERRILS A.H. (ed.), Vandals, Romans and Berbers: new perspectives on late antique North Africa, Burlington (Vt), 2004.

MITCHELL S., A History of the Later Roman Empire, AD 284-641: the Transformation of the Ancient World, Malden (MA), 2007.

MOORHEAD J., The Roman Empire Divided, 400-700, Harlow, 2001.

RICH J. (ed.), The City in Late Antiquity, London-NY, 1992.

ROSENWEIN Barbara H., A Short History of the Middle Ages, 2009. Landman Library

ROUSSEAU Ph., A Companion to Late Antiquity, Ebooks Corporation webaccess Landman Library WARD-PERKINS B., The Fall of Rome and the End of Civilization, NY-OxfordUPr, 2005. webaccess Landman Library

WARD-PERKINS B., From Classical antiquity to the Middle Ages. Urban Public Building in Northern and Central Italy, AD 300-850, Oxford, 1984, repr. 1987.

WEBSTER Leslie, BROWN Michelle, (edd.), *The Transformation of the Roman World AD 400-900*, UCalPr, Berkeley-Los Angeles, 1997.

WICKHAM C., Early Medieval Italy. Central Power and Local Society 400-1000, London, 1981.

WICKHAM C., Framing the Early Middle Ages. Europe and the Mediterranean, 400-800, Oxford, 2005. webaccess Landman Library Rome office

WOLFRAM H., History of the Goths, Berkeley, rev. ed., 1988. *Landman Library*

<u>The Cambridge companion to the Age of Justinian</u>, Cambridge-New York, Cambridge University Press, 2005 (*web access Landman Library*).

CAMERON A., GARNSEY P. (edd.), *The Cambridge Ancient History. Volume XIII. The Late Empire, A.D.* 337-425, Cambridge, 1998. (web access available but not in Landman Library!)

CAMERON A., WARD-PERKINS B., WHITBY M. (edd.), *The Cambridge Ancient History. Volume XIV. Late Antiquity: Empire and Successors, A.D. 425-600*, Cambridge, 2000. (web access available but not in Landman Library)

A search under "Late Antiquity" and "Islam" in the catalog of the Landman Library allows you to find numerous other titles, several of which are electronic copies and thus directly accessible.