

THE ROMAN FORUM

& ITS MONUMENTS



University of Oklahoma — CL C 3233

Fall 2021

MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Dale Hall 0107

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Office Hours: Monday, 12:30-2:30 PM, or by appointment

Catalogue Description: Examines the excavation of the Roman Forum, the central part of ancient Rome, and extant monuments in this and other parts of the city. Concentrates study on archaeological methodology, specific excavations, topography of Rome, and the cultural significance of Roman urban development on the ancient world.

Learning Outcomes:

Survey: Students will be able to trace the development of the Roman Forum and the city of Rome generally from its beginnings to Late Antiquity through the extant archaeological remains.

Social Theory: Students will analyze how visual and material culture both informed and were informed by different aspects of Roman society, interpreting material within its socio-historical context.

Stylistic Analysis: Using the appropriate terminology in writing and speaking, students will identify formal properties of art and architecture and their relation to characteristics of a particular period and/or style (e.g. Archaic, Republican, Julio-Claudian, Flavian, Late Antique, etc.).

Technical Analysis: Using the appropriate terminology in writing and speaking, students will identify the materials and techniques used to produce art, architecture, and artifacts.

Critical Analysis: Students will discuss important methodological approaches in archaeology, architectural criticism, and material culture studies in relation to the Roman Forum and other monuments.

About the Course: The Forum was the political, spiritual, and social heart of Rome from the inception of the city to its decline and transformation in Late Antiquity. Since the beginnings of archaeology, the Roman Forum has been the site of numerous discoveries that have shed light on the architecture, technology, and culture of the ancient world. It was where Rome's Republic was born, and where the emperors spread their propaganda. Today, it is a monument to the ancient city that is visited by multitudes of tourists annually.

In this course we examine the development of the Roman Forum from its origins as a malarial swamp to its role in the politics of the Roman Republic and Empire. We will examine the public buildings, civic infrastructure, and architectural successes (and failures) that define not just the Forum but Rome itself. We will discuss the archaeologists involved in the rediscovery of ancient Rome, as well as the many questions about the city and its past that remain to be answered. This is, first and foremost, a class about Roman archaeology, and so our focus will be on the material remains, both grand and quotidian, of the Romans in all their vast diversity.

The assignments in this course are meant to foster an understanding of Roman archaeology and culture. Through the examination of texts, artifacts, architecture, and visual culture, you will analyze aspects of the Roman Forum and other monuments in the city from different theoretical and methodological perspectives.



Required Texts: There two required texts for this course can be found new for around \$35 each, and used copies are usually available for considerably less. Please be certain you are getting the **updated** version of Coarelli's book.

Coulston, J., and H. Dodge, eds. 2000. *Ancient Rome: The Archaeology of the Eternal City*. ISBN: 9780947816551

Coarelli, F. 2014. *Rome and Environs: An Archaeological Guide*. First Edition, Updated. ISBN: 9780520282094 (except where noted in the syllabus, this book should be used as a quick reference to sites and monuments mentioned in other readings.)

Additional readings will be made available through PDF copies uploaded to Canvas.

Assignments & Grading: There are two exams, one multi-part research and writing assignment called a Site Report, and two practical skills assessments. These are described in more detail below. Final grades are calculated from these percentages:

Critical/Creative Reflections (2): 20%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Research Paper: 20%

Research Poster: 10%

Grading Scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F

Critical/Creative Reflections: I find that learning is more rewarding when it involves a creative aspect. With this in mind you will be asked to complete 2 (100 pts each) assignments over the course of the semester in which you will have to apply the techniques and approaches used by archaeologists in a more illustrative way. The first of these asks you to design your own addition to the Roman Forum as if you were a politician in the Republic. The second asks you to take on the role of an ancient person visiting the city and its monuments for the first time.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam halfway through the semester and a final exam during our scheduled final exam period. Exam material will be drawn from the assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. They are meant to assess your knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures and your ability to analyze this material. You will be asked to answer questions of varying length and complexity, and you will be expected to identify important sites, artifacts, and examples of architecture.

Research Paper: This final component to the course is a multi-part research and writing assignment. A list of potential topics will be distributed via Canvas, but you are encouraged to seek out research topic that interests you. This project is broken down into two parts: a 8-10 page paper (20% of final grade), and a poster that concisely explains your site for your peers in the class (10% of final grade). You will submit the paper to your instructor and post your poster to a discussion forum on our Canvas site. Some questions on the final exam will be drawn from these research posters. More detailed guidelines to this assignment will be distributed in the coming weeks!

Attendance & Late Work: Students have a responsibility to inform the professor prior to absences whenever possible. Three (3) unexcused absences from class will result in the automatic loss of half a letter grade (e.g., A- to B+). Assignments or exams will only be accepted after their due date in the case of a serious obligation or emergency. Documentation (doctor's note, court summons, etc.) must be provided before late work is accepted. Except in an emergency, anticipated absences should be discussed with the instructor before the assignment or exam is due. Late assignments must be submitted by the next class period. Missed exams must be rescheduled with the instructor within 48 hours of the original date. A make-up exam will be scheduled within a week of the original exam's date.

Content Notice: Images of human skeletal remains may appear in some materials from this course, including assigned readings and lecture slides.

Please Remember: These are strange days. Things some (though certainly not all) of us used to take for granted—our economic safety, our health, our ability to access reliable technology—are not guaranteed. You are not alone in this. If you're in some sort of jam, let me know. Perhaps you are having difficulty accessing the internet. Perhaps you have gotten sick. Perhaps you have family obligations that require your attention. All of these are important; never think that they cannot be accommodated. Schoolwork matters; life matters more.



University Policies:

COVID-19

Please stay apprised of OU guidelines with regard to COVID-19 protocols on campus. This website has the pertinent information and is regularly updated: <https://www.ou.edu/together>. OU is strongly encouraging vaccination and masking in high-density settings such as classrooms and group events. COVID-19 vaccines are available to all students, faculty, and staff on all three OU campuses at no cost to the individual.

Academic Integrity

Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma, because it devalues the degree you are working hard to get. As a member of the OU community it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the rules. For specific definitions on what constitutes cheating, review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html. To be successful in this class, all work on exams and quizzes must be yours and yours alone. You may not receive outside help. On examinations and quizzes you will never be permitted to use your notes, textbooks, calculators, or any other study aids. Should you see someone else engaging in this behavior, I encourage you to report it to myself or directly to the Office of Academic Integrity Programs. That student is devaluing not only their degree, but yours, too. Be aware that it is my professional obligation to report academic misconduct, which I will not hesitate to do. Sanctions for academic misconduct can include expulsion from the University and an F in this course, so don't cheat. It's simply not worth it.

Religious Observance

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html>. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24/7) to learn more or to report an incident.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html for commonly asked questions.

Final Exam Preparation Period

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's Final Exam Preparation Period policy (<https://apps.hr.ou.edu/FacultyHandbook#4.10>).



Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	Jan. 19	Course Overview & Digital Resources	Read the syllabus & consult websites linked on Canvas
2	Jan. 24 & 26	Introduction to Rome and Its Archaeology	Coarelli, 1-9 Coulston & Dodge, 1-15 Wiseman, 55-70 (on Canvas)
3	Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	The Beginnings of the Roman Forum: Between Myth and Archaeology	Coulston & Dodge, 16-41 Claridge, 93-114 (on Canvas) Watkin, 1-29 (on Canvas)
4	Feb. 7 & 9	Building Rome: Methods and Materials of the Roman Architect	Coulston & Dodge, 119-141 Jackson & Kosso, 268-284 (on Canvas) Critical/Creative Reflection 1
5	Feb. 14 & 16	The Infrastructure of Roman Public Spaces: Roads, Aqueducts, and Drains	Coulston & Dodge, 166-209 Bert Lott, 263-278 (on Canvas)
6	Feb. 21 & 23	The Roman Forum in the Early & Middle Republic: Defining the Commonwealth	Coulston & Dodge, 42-60 Davies, 441-458 (on Canvas) Pearson, 559-579 (on Canvas)
7	Feb. 28 & March 2	The Roman Forum in the Late Republic: the Politics of Public Building	Davies, 215-244 (on Canvas) Evans, 459-471 (on Canvas)
8	March 7 & 9	Destruction and Renovation in the Roman Forum at the End of the Republic	Davies, 245-275 (on Canvas) Midterm Exam
9	March 14 & 16	Spring Break	Enjoy your break!
10	March 21 & 23	The Urban Image of Augustan Rome	Favro, 234-263 (on Canvas) Rehak, 9-30 (on Canvas) Critical/Creative Reflection 2
11	March 28 & 30	The Imperial Fora: Caesar, Augustus, Vespasian, and Nerva	Coarelli, 103-130 Yegul & Favro, 186-243 (on Canvas)
12	April 4 & 6	The Trajanic Building Project: Forum, Basilica, Libraries, and Market	Packer, 173-191 (on Canvas) Research Poster Due on Canvas Discussion
13	April 11 & 13	Baths and Basilicas: Civic Infrastructure in the High Empire	DeLaine, 325-342 (on Canvas) Fagan, 176-188 (on Canvas)
14	April 18 & 20	Circuses, Arenas, and Theatres: Building for Spectacle	Coulston & Dodge, 210-248 Gunderson, 637-658 (on Canvas)
15	April 25 & 27	The Roman Forum Abroad: Replicating Roman Public Space across the Empire	Yegul & Favro, 409-486 (on Canvas) Research Paper Due
16	May 2 & 4	Roman in the Late Empire & Beyond	Coulston & Dodge, 306-331 Kalas, 47-74 (on Canvas)

Final Exam: Wed., May 11th at 4:30 - 6:30 pm