

HIST/ITAL2201 – The city of Rome from Constantine to the Borgias
Professor Ann Moyer
2022C Fall

Office hours: R 3:15-4:15 and by apt.



The great city of Rome outlived its empire and its emperors. What happened to the Eternal City after “the fall of the Roman Empire in the West?” In this course, we will follow the story of this great city, its people, its buildings old and new, and its legacy across Italy, Europe, and beyond. Rome rebuilt and reshaped itself as a great Renaissance and early modern city, a center of art and architecture, of religion, and of politics.

We will be reading a mix of primary sources and modern scholarship. All required texts are in English, though students who take this course for Italian Studies credit may choose to read some works in Italian.

Books (At Penn Bookstore)

Richard Krautheimer. Rome: Portrait of a City 312-1308

Ingrid Rowland. The Culture of the High Renaissance: Ancients and Moderns in Sixteenth-Century Rome

The Marvels of Rome; Mirabilia Urbis Romæ

Lorenzo Valla. On the Donation of Constantine.

Ebooks via Franklin (reading in whole or in part):

Collins, Amanda. *Greater than emperor: Cola di Rienzo (ca. 1313-54) and the world of fourteenth-century Rome*. Univ. of Michigan, 2002.

McCahill, Elizabeth. *Reviving the Eternal City: Rome and the Papal Court, 1420-1447*. Harvard, 2013.

Karmon, David E. *The Ruin of the Eternal City: Antiquity and Preservation In Renaissance Rome*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Additional readings on Canvas site.

1	Aug. 30	Introduction: Rome and Later Antiquity
	Sept. 1	Discussion: Krautheimer, <i>Rome: Portrait of a City</i>, Chapter 1
2	Sept. 6	<i>The Making of Papal Rome</i>
	Sept. 8	Discussion: Krautheimer, <i>Rome: Portrait of a City</i> Chapters 2-4; Noble. <i>The Republic of St. Peter</i>, 1-60, 325-36 (Canvas)
3	Sept. 13	<i>Bishops and Communes: The Roman Case</i>
	Sept. 15	Discussion: Krautheimer, <i>Portrait of a City</i>, Chapters 5-7; Wickham, <i>Medieval Rome</i> 1-42, 385-457 (Canvas)
4	Sept. 20	<i>Rome for Travelers: the Mirabilia and more</i>
	Sept. 22	Discussion: <i>Mirabilia Urbis Romae</i>; Louis Hamilton, "The Rituals of Renaissance," and Stefano Riccioni, "Rewriting Antiquity, Renewing Rome," both from <i>Rome Reimagined</i> (Canvas); Ann Van Dijk, "The Veronica, the Vultus Christi and the veneration of icons," "Epilogue" from <i>Old St. Peter's, Rome</i> (Canvas)
5	Sept. 27	<i>Medieval Rome before Avignon</i>
	Sept. 29	Discussion: Krautheimer, <i>Portrait of a City</i>, Chapter 8-end
6	Oct. 4	<i>Rome without the Pope: the Avignon Years</i>
	Oct. 6	no class fall break
	Oct. 11	The Big Picture: Rome, Religion, Politics in 14th- Europe
7	Oct. 13	Discussion: Amanda Collins, <i>Greater Than Emperor</i>, Introduction and Part 1
	Oct. 18	Papal Returns
	Oct. 20	Discussion: McCahill, <i>Reviving the Eternal City</i> 1-3; Poggio, <i>Facetiae</i>: read esp vol. 1, pp. 1-35 (#1-13); vol. 2, pp. 1-10, 224-32 (#121-126, 270-conclusion) (Canvas)
8	Oct. 21	First book review due
	Oct. 25	Building a Renaissance in Rome: Popes and Humanists

9	Oct. 27	Discussion: McCahill, 4-6 (Canvas); <i>Valla on Donation of Constantine</i>
	Nov. 1	Myths, Histories, and Humanists
10	Nov. 3	Discussion: Pius II, <i>Commentaries</i> Book 1 (Preface, 1-20; 24-30; 33-37; Canvas); begin reading Rowland
	Nov. 8	Renaissance Culture: Ancients and Moderns
	Nov. 10	Discussion: Rowland, <i>The Culture of the High Renaissance</i>
11	Nov. 15	Historic Preservation
	Nov. 17	Discussion: Karmon, <i>The Ruin of the Eternal City</i> , Intro, Chapters 1, 2, 5, Conclusion (Canvas)
12	Nov. 22-24	No class (T-giving)
13	Nov. 29	Early Modern Rome
	Dec. 1	Discussion: <i>A Companion to Early Modern Rome, 1492-1692</i> : Intro, chapters 1, 9, 10, 13, 25, 28, 30 (Canvas)
14	Dec. 6	Engineering and Building the Early Modern City
	Dec. 8	Discussion: Long, <i>Engineering the Eternal City</i> , Intro, Chapters 1-2, 4, 5, 8, Conclusion
	Dec. 9	Second Book Review due
	Dec. 21	Final Exam due

Our course readings present a mix of major primary sources, synthetic summaries, and important modern scholarship. Most of our class time will focus on the information and issues they raise.

Course requirements:

- 5 response papers. These are essays of 250-300 words responding to the week's reading; a choice of topics will be posted in advance. These questions offer general guides to our readings and our discussions of them, so you will want to look at them even on the weeks you are not writing responses. These essays are due by the beginning of class time (no exceptions or extensions). You may choose the weeks, except that at least one must be submitted by September 29.
- Critical Book reviews: 2 reviews, 1000 words.

One review of your choice of the books we are reading as part of the course; one of a scholarly work of your choice in Roman history, approved by instructor in advance. (A list of suggested titles will be posted on Canvas).

- Responsibility for introducing and leading the discussion of weekly readings (2 weeks), to be assigned the first week of class. Instructions are posted on Canvas; the assignment will include a written submission of your materials one week later.
- Take-home final essay examination.
- Regular attendance and participation

Class attendance is, of course, mandatory. Please be ready to discuss the readings, with your copies of those readings in hand or on screen.

Grading percentages:

Review (each): 15%

Leading Discussion (each): 10%

Exam: 30%

Response papers 20% total (4% each)

Academic honesty is fundamental to our community. The Pennbook contains our Code of Academic Integrity. A violation of that Code in this course will result in failure for the course.