

The American University of Rome Archaeology and Classics Program

Course Title:	Ancient Material Culture
Course Number:	AHAR 101
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	None

Course description

This is an introductory course on the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean, focusing on the city of Rome and its relationship to earlier, contemporaneous and later related cultural traditions. The course focuses primarily on the artworks and artifacts produced by ancient Greece and Rome, with some sessions also treating the influence of Egyptian, Near Eastern, and Etruscan cultures and the afterlife of classical material culture post-antiquity. The course will be taught as a mixture of classroom lectures and on-site classes, enabling students to see at first hand as much ancient material culture as possible.

Required Textbooks (*subject to change*)

- Mark D. Stansbury-O'Donnell, *A History of Greek Art*. Wiley-Blackwell (2015). 978-1444350159
- Steven L. Tuck, *A History of Roman Art*. Wiley-Blackwell (2015/2021) 978-1444330267 or 978-1119653288

Both of these books are available as e-books via the AUR library.

Recommended Readings (*subject to change*)

A list of readings will be provided early in the course.

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required and may be asked to submit payment to the AUR Finance in advance of site visits. Please see Schedule of Lectures for more details about anticipated costs. It is highly recommended that all students apply for the MiC (Musei in Comune) card to reduce the financial impact of museum visits.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and date key examples of ancient material culture and recognize their underlying visual and cultural traditions
2. Develop both written and oral analyses of artworks and archaeological objects utilizing a precise technical language
3. Explain the iconography and symbolism used by ancient artists and their meaning within an ancient context
4. Evaluate the role of material culture in the formation of cultural identity in diverse ancient civilizations

Course Learning Activities

Class participation and discussion (CLO 1-4) Students are expected to actively engage in in-class discussion on a regular basis by asking and responding to questions. The discussion forum on MyAUR can also be used towards participation but is not required.

On-site exercises (CLO 1-4) During each on-site class, students will be required to complete an on-site exercise either individually or as part of a group. The exercises should be completed largely while the student is on-site, and then typed up and submitted within 48 hours of the on-site class.

Text and video outside of class (CLO 1, 4) Students are expected to read the assigned portions of their textbooks in close conjunction with lecture, focusing on the sections of the textbooks that cover the objects actually discussed in class. Videos provide essential supplementary information about ancient processes and techniques, and if not viewed in class, must be viewed and discussed online outside of class.

Object analysis essays (CLO 1-4) Short (800-1000 words) essays thoroughly evaluating a single artwork, artifact, building, or site; one Greek and one Roman. Students should consult and cite at least three acceptable sources in addition to their textbooks. Each student must research a different object; options and additional assignment guidelines will be available on MyAUR.

Oral presentation (CLO 2-4) Presentation on-site or in the classroom on a topic assigned by the instructor. Additional assignment guidelines will be available on MyAUR.

Final exam (CLO 1-4) Individual oral exam consisting of short identification and comparison questions (7 minutes) and one longer question (3 minutes).

Assessment tools

Participation	10%
On-site exercises (5 x 6%)	30%
Object analysis essays (2 x 15%)	30%
Oral presentation	15%
Final Exam	15%

Class Policies

- **On-site classes** It is essential that you make every effort to attend all class meeting, but especially on-site classes, as all of these meetings will include required assignments and opportunities for participation. Students will receive an email prior to each on-site class with instructions about travel, meeting place and time, and a general itinerary. If you are running late or cannot attend, you must communicate directly with the instructor, not through one of your classmates. Students who miss on-site meetings for any reason are still required to visit the site or museum required and to complete the on-site exercise. *Due to current and future Covid restrictions, on-site classes may need to take place beyond the confines of the scheduled class time or even completely outside scheduled class time. You will not be asked to attend class longer than the allotted time, nor to attend class during another scheduled class, but it is likely that the schedule will have to be flexible to accommodate opening hours and attendance capacities.*

- **Submission of assignments** is the responsibility of the student. If you have submitted an assignment electronically, the instructor will always email to tell you of its receipt within 24 hours. If you do not receive a confirmation email, it is **your responsibility** to follow up. Electronic submissions will be accepted only via MyAUR, not by email.
- **Late assignments:** Papers and assignments that are submitted after the due date will be penalized two points for each day the assignment is late. I do entertain requests for extensions, but only before the deadline. Requests for a revised due date after the original deadline will still receive a grade penalty for the period up to the date the revised due date is requested.
- **Conduct policies for any online portion of the course:** You are kindly requested to keep your camera on and your microphone muted during the class meetings, and to use the raise hand function when you would like to speak. Because we will frequently be using the Share Screen option in Zoom, these practices will ensure that everyone has an equal chance at participation and that I can easily and quickly acknowledge students who have a question or comment. If you need to keep your camera off for any reason, please let me know in advance of our class meeting. Please note that only classroom meetings may be joined remotely.
- **Academic Integrity** Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments, including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports; lending to or producing assignments for others (either for or without payment); using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations; copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own; and otherwise misappropriating the knowledge of others. Such acts are both dishonest and deceptive: the work submitted to instructors is not the work of the person whose name it bears. In consequence, the sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and facts, including internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form. Failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism. An act of plagiarism will be reported to the Registrar's office and noted in the student's file. After three incidents of plagiarism, the student will be suspended from the University for at least one semester.
- **Cyber bullying** AUR has a zero-tolerance policy regarding cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is defined by the U.S. National Crime Prevention Council as, "the intentional and aggressive process of using the Internet, cell phones or other devices to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person." The very nature of education depends upon the free exchange of ideas, and the university classroom is a safe space where ideas are explored and debated in a respectful and thoughtful way. Because cyber bullying attacks the fundamental tenets of intellectual inquiry, any student found guilty of cyber bullying another student or a professor will be immediately suspended from the university.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES & READINGS

subject to change

Week	Topic and Assignments Due	Text and Video
Week 1	Tu 8/31 Bronze Age Greece – Cyclades, Crete, Mainland Greece (ca. 2500-1100 BC)	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 19-67; Material Culture – Artifacts and the Meaning(s) They Carry (all links may also be found on MyAUR)
Week 2	Tu 9/7 The Iron Age to Early Archaic (ca. 1100-600 BC)	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 68-96 and 130-151
Week 3	Tu 9/14 The Archaic Period (ca. 600-480 BC) ON-SITE – Museo di Villa Giulia (10 euro)	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 118-122 and 179-208 (and Tuck 18-47, just skim) Watch: Mysteries of the Kylix: Recreating Ancient Greek Ceramics (video 11m)
Week 4	Tu 9/21 Athens: Agora and Acropolis (ca. 480-430 BC) CLASSROOM	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 99-111, 152-178, and 235-264; Pressure Grows on UK to Hand Back 'Elgin Marbles' Watch: The Panathenaia and the Panathenaic Way (video 6m)
Week 5	Tu 9/28 Greek sculpture (Archaic through Hellenistic) ON-SITE – Palazzo Massimo and/or Palazzo Altemps (12 euro or purchase MNR card) afternoon visit	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 286-318 Watch: How Ancient Bronze Statues Were Made (video 4m)
Week 6	Tu 10/5 The Hellenistic Period (ca. 330-100 BC) CLASSROOM	Read: Stansbury-O'Donnell 341-379
Week 7	Tu 10/12 Introduction to Roman Material Culture CLASSROOM	Read: Tuck 18-46 Watch: Minecraft Rome Project – Capitoline Hill (video 3m)

Week 8	<p>M 10/18 Object Essay #1 due</p> <p>Tu 10/19 The Roman Republic</p> <p>ON-SITE – Capitoline Museums (11,50 euro or free with MiC card)</p>	<p>Read: Tuck 48-112</p> <p>Watch: History Buffs: Rome Season One (video 27m)</p>
Week 9	<p>Tu 10/26 Age of Augustus</p> <p>ON-SITE – Mausoleum of Augustus and Ara Pacis Museum (10,50 euro or free with MiC card)</p>	<p>Read: Tuck 113-143</p>
Week 10	<p>Living in the Roman Empire: Pompeii and Herculaneum</p> <p>ASYNCHRONOUS</p>	<p>Read: Tuck 145-210</p> <p>Watch: Pompeii: Life and Death in a Roman Town (video 59m)</p>
Week 11	<p>Tu 11/9 Pax Romana</p> <p>ON-SITE – Trajan's Forum and Markets (11,50 or free with MiC card)</p>	<p>Read: Tuck 211-272</p> <p>Read and Watch: All Roads Lead to Rome and The Rise and Fall of Roman Aqueducts</p>
Week 12	<p>Tu 11/16 Later Antiquity</p> <p>ON-SITE – Museo Nazionale delle Terme (MNR card)</p>	<p>Read: Tuck 273-362</p> <p>Read and Watch: Rome Reborn AD 320 and Interactive Installations – London Mithraeum</p>
	<p>FALL BREAK – 11/22-11/26</p> <p><i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i></p>	
Week 13	<p>Tu 11/30 The Afterlife of Antiquity</p> <p>W 12/1 Object Essay #2 due</p> <p>ON-SITE – Centrale Montemartini or alternative (10 euro or free with MiC card)</p>	<p>Read: TBD</p> <p>Watch: TBD</p>
Week 14	FINAL EXAM – December 14	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;

Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week; Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the

Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		

