



# Syllabus

## ENG 298 Roman Structures and Art

### Over 2500 Years of Contribution to Modern Society

**Instructors:** John Walker and Barbara Zell

**Contact Information:** Phone: 651-962-5764  
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**Dates:** We depart for Rome on January 5, 2009, arriving January 6. We return from Rome to Minneapolis on January 24, 2009.

**Location:** We will stay in Rome from January 6 to January 18 visiting Naples and Pompeii then traveling to Siena, Monteriggioni, San Gimignano, Florence, Pisa, Carrara, Modena and back to Rome on January 23. Returning to Minneapolis on January 24.

**Link to Course Website:** <http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/enr298>

**Link to Course Blog:** [http://blog.stthomas.edu/engineering\\_rome/](http://blog.stthomas.edu/engineering_rome/)

#### Required Texts

- Roman Engineering and Structures –John Walker, University of St Thomas printing
- Rome Oxford Archaeological guides – Amanda Claridge, Oxford University Press

#### Study Before Trip

Each student should familiarize themselves with the timeline of Roman History, and have a good Italian guide book, Three good books are:

- Italy published by DK Publishing,
- Rome published by DK Publishing
- The Michelin guide to Italy.

**Additional texts** for reference during the course.

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|--|-------------------|
| · The Ancient Roman City                 | John E. Stambaugh |
| · Roman Architecture                     | Frank Sear        |
| · Guide to the Aqueducts of Ancient Rome | Peter Aicher      |
| · History of Italian Renaissance Art     | Frederick Hartt   |
| · Religions of Rome                      | Mary Beard et al  |
| · Daily Life in Ancient Rome             | Florence Dupont   |
| · Cities in Civilization                 | Sir Peter Hall    |
| · Roman Roads and Aqueducts              | Don Nardo         |

**Course Description:** Modern Rome is a living tribute to the contributions made by the engineers of Ancient Rome and the Holy Roman Empire. Their legacies of art, architecture, public health innovations, design and construction techniques advanced the Roman rural society to an urban culture of well-defined principles and planning.

The course will be conducted mainly in Rome where many of the great Roman engineers (mostly anonymous) left examples of their work that exist today. Rome provides students with a wealth of ancient remnants of this sophisticated society; aqueducts, roads, forums and temples. The Roman contributions to modern society are everywhere. We will also take excursions to cities and countryside outside of Rome to study their relationship to Rome from the perspective of their art, architecture, design and construction techniques.

This course focuses on these contributions, and challenges the student to analyze and describe from their point of view several significant contributions from the ancient Roman engineers. We will evaluate examples in today's society and use ancient Roman history as a backdrop for these discussions.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to identify contributions of the Roman engineers to modern society.
2. Be able to identify the sociological impact of engineering on the Roman community, both then and now.
3. Understand how the growth of Rome depended on engineering as well as politics.
4. Be familiar with the background as to why certain structures were built, and how many are still used today.
5. Understand some of the engineering challenges of construction methods and materials.
6. Have an appreciation of another culture – their customs, habits, eating and language.

**Course Methodology:**

The course will facilitate awareness of the relationship between art, architecture, and engineering from ancient Roman times to the present. Learning will be through class lectures, group discussions, guest lecturers, and on site visits to provide a historical background as well as present day examples to help experience the relationship between historical events and the present.

What would you see differently in how you would do business in this culture? In this town? How do you think their culture affects the ways they do business and the way they design products and systems? What do you see in the US that is influenced by the Italian traditions/culture etc?

We will visit the University of Rome – La Sapienza and also the University of Naples–“Frederico II” There will be several guest lectures by the professors at each University on engineering subjects.

Our tours will have licensed guides for discussions and site visits.

We will study the ancient Roman engineers methodology: How did they survey and measure.? What tools and materials did they use?

For maximum benefit from this course, it is especially important to –

1. Join in and engage with the class discussions.
2. Continually read material and come prepared to discuss issues with more to offer than individual experience.
3. Engage fellow students in give-and-take, critical discussions.
4. Challenge personal and others' thinking.
5. Go out and experience the Italian culture

**Major Assignments:**

1. A journal regarding individual thoughts and encounters with the influence of ancient Rome. A journal entry should be made every day. Each entry will summarize the day's events, provide a thoughtful reflection on some aspect of local culture, and provide an analysis of some structure or public works object seen that day. The journal will provide a place to record impressions of new experiences and cultures of another country. The entries should relate to the assigned readings or lectures and to something seen, heard or otherwise experienced during the course. The journals will be collected and evaluated at the end of each week.

2. A ten-page paper titled "Contributions of Roman Engineering to modern Society" that includes at least three well-developed examples of how ancient Rome influenced modern society. Material should be gathered for the paper during site visits and personal explorations. This paper will be due after our return to the United States by January 30, 2009. But should be researched and created during our time in Italy. There will be a 5 point grade reduction for non delivery every day after January 30.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be based on the following proportions:

1. Attendance: 10%
2. Participation in group discussions: 25%
3. Daily journal: 35%
4. Paper: 30%

**Academic Integrity:**

All students are expected to understand and follow the University of St. Thomas policies on Academic Integrity. These are described

at: [http://www.stthomas.edu/policies/student\\_policy\\_book/Academic\\_rights\\_and\\_procedures.asp](http://www.stthomas.edu/policies/student_policy_book/Academic_rights_and_procedures.asp)

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is not allowed and will result in a minimum of an 'F' for the work. For your reference I have reproduced part of the relevant section of the Student handbook under Academic integrity and dishonesty:

*"Plagiarism - The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person as one's own without acknowledgment. In every instance, you also must formally acknowledge the written source from which you took the material. (This includes material taken from the World Wide Web and other Internet sources.)"*

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions at St Thomas and in Italy. Circumstances which prevent attendance will be honored up to two instances. Absences in excess of two times may result in an incomplete grade for the course. Contact the instructor when a special situation arises. All absences require that the instructor be informed in advance.

**Etiquette guidelines****General**

When we travel abroad we are looked upon by other people as foreigners and how we act is considered as 'typical Americans'. We are often criticized for our 'non European' behavior. We have the added responsibility of representing the University of St. Thomas. While being mindful of the Italian culture we should at all times be good representatives of our own culture and the university we are representing

Due to the language barrier we will be at a disadvantage in understanding our hosts and people we come in contact with. In general, the Italian people are very tolerant in trying to help, many are able to understand and speak some English, although they may not always make you aware of this. Always treat the person you're trying to converse with respectfully, and they will respond favorably.

**Group**

- When in a group you need to be aware of other people in the group and in general go with the majority opinions. If there is a disagreement, discuss it and come to an amicable understanding.
- Do not wander off on your own adventures. Always keep the body of the group in sight so people do not have to come looking for you.
- If you need to find a restroom tell someone, so that they can assist you, and the group does not get broken up.
- If the group is given free time, make sure you know where to meet again, and at what

time, especially if it is for the bus to leave. There is nothing more frustrating than being in a group of people waiting for one straggler, it is irresponsible of that person and does not help the group dynamics.

- Do not go around in public with a bottle of alcohol (open or sealed) in your hand -. If you have purchased alcohol as a gift keep it packaged.

#### **Hotel**

- When in the public areas you should always be appropriately dressed, i.e. shoes and clothes (not a bath robe or pajamas)
- If the hotel has a pool, it is acceptable to move between the pool and your room in a swimsuit. However you should always have either a bathrobe or a bath towel covering you and wear flip-flops or tennis shoes. (Never bare feet)
- Do not carry around open bottles of drink or open food.
- If you are bringing in purchased drinks or food into a hotel, carry it in a sac or plastic bag so that it is not obvious.
- In a public area do not drink out of a bottle, always use a glass or cup
- In the room areas there should be quiet after 10 p.m. and before 8 a.m. in respect of other people in the hotel.
- The rooms are separate for males and females any violation will ensure the offending parties being returned home.
- Most European hotels have bidets, they are considered by many to be more hygienic.

#### **Restaurants**

- It is usual in buffet style meals to always take a new clean plate if you return to the buffet.
- Do not open prepackaged cartons of food (example – yogurt) and lick the lid.
- Do not lick your knife.
- Only use fingers for proper finger food. I.e. it is not normal to pick up bacon with the fingers to eat.
- Europeans typically use a fork in the left-hand and a knife in the right during eating. It is acceptable to use the American-style, but give the European-style a try while you're there; it is another part of the cultural experience. You might find it more efficient anyway.

#### **Free Time and Weekends**

There will be several periods for free time during the days and most evenings. During this time students will be free to explore and report back to the class their respective experiences. A major part of study abroad is to experience the various aspects of the country or city being visited; the culture, travel methods, shopping, eating and in general being able to function in an unfamiliar environment.

--Weekends are considered to be part of the course. We will use them for excursions to regional cities such as Naples, Siena, Pisa, Florence and local vineyards or olive oil farms and also for some free time.

--We will also have some periods for study time where students will be expected to go individually or in small groups to different locations in Rome and then present to the class their own interpretation of what they saw and were able to research about the subject assigned or selected. --As appropriate we will have informal discussions in the evenings to exchange experiences.

There will be a web site set up for the course and it is expected that this will be organized by students to keep parents and friends at home informed of our activities.

#### **Teaching Staff:**

**Instructor** – John Walker IET, CE – 3M Fellow. Adjunct Faculty at the School of Engineering, University of St Thomas. John instructs in the School of Engineering Masters and undergraduate courses, chair of the graduate curriculum committee, member of the Industrial Advisory Board. Has traveled abroad extensively and studied UK and European engineering.

**Travel Specialist and Italy Specialist** – Barbara Zell - Registered nurse with graduate degrees in Education and Music. Member of the School of Engineering Board of Governors. Barbara has traveled to Italy and escorted groups there for over 20 years. Of Italian heritage, love for the

country and desire to have others see Italy in its most beautiful state, is always her goal for the travelers.

Besides owning a small travel company, she also provides nursing consultation to non-profit and community health agencies in the Minneapolis-St. Paul areas.

**There will be two sessions prior to our departure to Rome on January 5**

1 - **November**, 2008 – An informational meeting with the International Education Department followed by a course group meeting. November 21, 3:15-6:00pm.

2 – **December** A lab session on Roman methods (firm date to be announced no later than the November meeting).

John Walker, October 4, 2008

## J-Term 2009 Course Outline

**Note Changes in the schedule may occur. – a daily schedule will be provided to each student**

Date	Topics	Assignments
January 5 (Monday)  Day 1	Leave Minneapolis airport. NW 42, - 3.10 pm. (Luggage checked to Rome). Arrive Amsterdam 6.30am. Leave Amsterdam (KLM1601) 10.10am.	
January 6 (Tuesday)  Day 2	Arrive Rome 12.25pm. Bus transfer to Hotel Alimandi Settle in rooms and walk to Vatican Evening –walk to Piazza Navona (Epiphany)	
January 7 (Wednesday)  Day 3	A.M. Orientation and lecture P.M. Panoramic tour & Roman Forum Evening: Discussion	
January 8 (Thursday)  Day 4	Rome A.M. – Possibly St Clemente & Roman houses of Celio P.M. –Coliseum and Palatine hill Evening – Discussion	
January 9 (Friday)  Day 5	Rome A.M.– Church of Michelangelo (St Mary of Angels), Baths of Diocletian, Fresco museum (Epigraphs museum) P.M. –Free time/ study time Evening – Discussion	
January 10 (Saturday)  Day 6	Rome A.M. - Special visit to Coliseum: drainage and Hypogeum P.M. – optional – Castle of St Angels Evening – Discussion	
January 11 (Sunday)  Day 7	Rome A.M. -- Capitol hill, Trajan's column P. M. – Tiberine Evening – Discussion	
January 12 (Monday)  Day 8	Rome A.M. /P.M. Vatican museum, Sistine chapel, St Peters P.M.- Scavi Evening – Discussion	
January 13 Tuesday  Day 9	Rome A.M. - Lectures at University "La Sapienza" P.M. – Claudio Presentation then free time/study time Evening – Discussion	
January 14 Wednesday  Day 10	Rome A.M - Pope Audience P.M. - free time/study time Evening – Discussion	

January 15 Thursday Day 11	Rome A.M. –Villa of Quintila and aqueduct park P. M. – Walls, Porta Maggiore and its aqueducts Evening – Discussion	
January 16 (Friday) Day 12	Rome A.M. - Lectures at University of Naples "Federico II" P.M. –Visit Pompeii Evening - Discussion.	
January 17 (Saturday) Day 13	Rome A.M. – Free time/study time P.M. – Group presentations Evening – Discussion	
January 18 (Sunday) Day 14	Rome Free day	
January 19 (Monday) Day 15	Florence A.M. – Train to Florence On arrival proceed to Sienna, San Gimignano and Monteriggioni	
January 20 (Tuesday) Day 16	Florence A.M. – Visit Accademi to see Michelangelo's 'David' P.M. – Tour Cathedral of St Mary of Flowers. Evening – Discussion.	
January 21 (Wednesday) Day 17	Pisa/Carrara A. M. – Carrara marble quarries P.M. – Pisa Evening - Discussion	
January 22 (Thursday) Day 18	Florence/Modena A.M. Free, option visit Museum of Science P.M. Train to Modena Evening - Discussion	
January 23 (Friday) Day 19	Modena/Rome A.M. –Visit engines of Modena P.M. –Train to Rome Evening - Discussion	
January 24 (Saturday) Day 20	Rome Depart Rome (KLM 1596) 5.55am. (Luggage to Minneapolis) Arrive Amsterdam 8.35am. Depart Amsterdam (NW41) 10.20am. Arrive Minneapolis 12.30pm.	