This course provides an introductory look at the Roman World from its Etruscan roots to the rise and stabilization of Islam formed in the heart of the Byzantine and Sassanid empires. This is nearly a millennium and a half of far too neglected narrative, geography, art, cultural and political history. We enter this discussion with Mediterranean societies merely forming. We leave it with a fair glimpse of the early modern world standing on the shoulders of a severely weakened late antique culture and court. This world produced enduring political structures, myths still reiterated and emulated, and the art and architecture of this world is still with us today. This world produced the three major monotheistic traditions as well as nurtured countless pagan cults and traditions only thinly veiled today.

REQUIREMENTS: Two in-class quizzes; two 5-page papers that comprise 80% of your grade. Your presence and participation constitutes the remaining 20%.