A survey and exploration of the major spaces, surviving monuments and artifacts of the city of Rome from the earliest occupation of the Palatine around 1000 BCE to the first major Christian buildings in the 4th-5th centuries CE. Students explore how politics and culture shape the urban landscape, challenges in identifying buildings and the way that spaces were used, and the Roman imperial consumption of Greek art. We consider the incorporation of Roman monuments into subsequent architecture, including Fascist political (re)use of archaeology, as well as problems of conservation in the context of the modern city. Visits to the excavated cities of Pompeii and Ostia make visible the lives and activities of those lost in the literary record, including wealthy women and enslaved people. Students give two presentations to help teach the city, use their developing knowledge to interpret archaeological sites, and conduct a self-guided site visit as coursework. No prerequisites – students from all disciplines, years and citizenships are welcome to apply. Students earn 2 credits for completing the course.
PREPARATIONS

The Office of Study Away will conduct one pre-departure meeting on issues of safety and security (TBA), and the department will have four pre-departure meetings in the Fall of 2023 (October 25, November 10 and 22, December 6, 11:30-12:45pm, Old Main 009, lunch included). These will include an introduction to the course and assignments, an overview of Roman history and archaeology, an orientation to modern Italian culture and language, and a practical discussion of what to pack and what to expect. Attendance at these meetings is mandatory -- they are considered part of the course. Students will also have assigned readings and two presentations to prepare before departure for Rome.

Students whose passports require them to have a visa to visit Italy should begin the visa process immediately. The Center for Study Away will provide any documents you need about the course and your registration in it, but obtaining the visa is your responsibility.

ASSIGNMENTS

Your course grade will be based on participation in all activities associated with the program, two quizzes, two presentations in Rome, on-site projects in the city, and one report on a self-guided site visit. The presentations need to be prepared before departure. The first involves the selection and reading of a passage from ancient literature (in translation) that demonstrates engagement with the physical surroundings of the city. Each student will also prepare and present a ten-minute talk on a selected artifact, monument, building, phenomenon or site in Rome.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

3: Departure from MSP / 4: Arrive in Rome, travel to HOTEL TRASTEVERE (Via Luciano Manara n. 24a/25) / 5: Capitoline & Route of the Triumph, Palatine Hill / 6: Republican & Imperial Fora, Colosseum / 7: Palazzo Massimo Museum (long morning) / 8: Largo Argentina Project, Ara Pacis & Campus Martius / 9: Rest Day & Independent Site Visits / 10: Pompeii / 11: Rest Day & Independent Site Visits / 12: Vatican area in antiquity, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican necropolis (long morning) / 13: Ostia / 14: Vatican Museums / 15: San Clemente Project (afternoon only) / 16: Religions and Art of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Rome (morning only) / 17: Return to US