

HIEU 124GS: The City in Italy | Rome

The is a tentative syllabus. The readings and excursions are subject to change.

Course Description

This course exams the legacies of Rome by exploring how the city, its imperial past, and its transformation throughout the ages influenced the thought and ideas of scholars, critics, and artists from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. Students will engage with different literary and artistic genres including memoirs, letters, political treatises, poetry, drama, opera, and film to explore the impact that the memory of Rome and the experience of its urban environment and civic culture have had on the Western humanistic tradition.

Required Texts

William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (Folger Shakespeare Library) 9781439196717

Other texts will be provided in digital format and uploaded to Canvas

- Lord Byron, select poems and *Letters from Italy*
- Goethe, *Italian Journey*
- *The Journal of Montaigne's Travels in Italy*
- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*
- Petrarch, Ascent of Mont Ventoux and *Letters on Familiar Matters*
- *Poems of Rome*, ed. Karl Kirchwey (2018)

Course Requirements:

Participation (30%): This is an experiential learning course. Participation in weekly excursions, meaningful engagement with the readings, and peer-to-peer collaboration are crucial to student success.

Reading Guides (10%): Students will complete two reading guides to aid with their comprehension of Machiavelli and Shakespeare.

Weekly Letter (40%): Letter writing in early modern Europe gave rise to a long-distance intellectual community that crossed national and continental boundaries. This community was known as the Republic of Letters. Students in HIEU 124GS will participate in their own Republic of Letters by writing to a designated peer each week about their experiences in the city and reflections on the readings. This is a formal writing assignment. Formatting instructions will be provided.

Final Exam (20%)

Course Outline

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- Pre-Departure Watch Pre-Recorded Lectures:
- Introductions to the City of Rome
 - Survey of Art and Architecture from Ancient Rome to the Present
- Week 1 HUMANISTS AND THE CITY OF ROME
- READ: Petrarch, Ascent of Mont Ventoux and selections from *Letters on Familiar Matters*
 - READ: Montaigne, selection from *The Journal of Montaigne's Travels in Italy*
 - EXCURSIONS: Colosseum, Roman Forum, Centro Storico, Pantheon, Palazzo Massimo, Baths of Diocletian
 - **DUE: Letter #1**
- Week 2 HUMANISM AND ROMAN REVIVAL
- READ: Machiavelli, selections from *Discourses on Livy*
 - **DUE: Machiavelli Reading Guide**
 - EXCURSIONS: Classical Concert
 - **DUE: Letter #2**
- Week 3 REIMAGING ROME
- READ: Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*
 - Watch *Julius Caesar* (2018): Bridge Theater (National Theater London Collection)
 - EXCURSIONS: Saint Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museums
 - **DUE: Shakespeare Reading Guide**
 - **DUE: Letter #3**
- Week 4 ROMANTICS AND THE CITY OF ROME
- READ: Lord Byron, [select poems](#) and selection from *Letters from Italy*
 - READ: Goethe, selections from *Italian Journey*
 - EXCURSIONS: Outdoor Opera, Galleria Borghese, Keats-Shelley House
 - DAY-TRIP: Villa Adriana and Tivoli
 - **DUE: Letter #4**
- Week 5 ROME IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
- WATCH: Federico Fellini, *La dolce vita*
 - READ: Selections from *Poems of Rome*
 - EXCURSIONS: Galleria Doria Pamphilj and Palazzo Spada
 - **DUE: Letter #5**
 - **DUE: Final Exam**

