

Florence Semester program – Institute at Palazzo Rucellai

HIST 430: The Roman Empire: Civilization and Legacy

Credits: 3

Instructor: TBA

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Site visit fees: TBA

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of the Roman world, from its beginnings in myth and legend through its rise to domination of the Mediterranean area and beyond, and from its violent conversion from a Republic to an Empire, and the long success of that Empire until its collapse in the fifth century. The first part of the semester will focus on the development of Roman institutions and political system, while the second will be devoted to the social structure of the Roman Empire and the daily life of its people. As we search together to unravel the historical significance of the Roman achievement, we will look at Roman literature and religion, art and architecture, and philosophy. When possible, we will give a privileged place to primary sources in translation, letting the characters of this great historical drama speak for themselves. Our readings will be at times be supplemented by slides and videos, and site visits to Roman vestiges in Florence. There will be a field trip to Rome.

At the conclusion of this course, students should be conversant with many aspects of Roman civilization, and the contribution it made (and continues to make) on all subsequent Western societies.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks: TBA

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.