

21H.405j / 11.012
THE ANCIENT CITY

Fall 2010
Tues. and Thurs. 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Prof. Will Broadhead
History Faculty

READINGS AND RESOURCES

1) Textbooks (available at the MIT Bookstore):

- J.M. Camp, *The Athenian Agora: site guide* (2010).
- J. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (2004).
- F. Coarelli, *Rome and Environs: an archaeological guide* (2007).
- J.E. Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City* (1988).

2) Class Web-site:

Further readings will be made available on the class web site. Material to be found online is marked thus: [online].

3) Web Resources:

Athenian Agora Excavations www.agathe.gr
Web-site of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, who have been responsible for excavating the Agora for many decades now.

JSTOR www.jstor.org
The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

Lacus Curtius penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home
Ancient sources in translation; useful collections of photos of Latin inscriptions and theatres *inter alia*; a few old secondary works on ancient Rome.

Ostia – Harbour City of Ancient Rome www.ostia-antica.org
An excellent site created by a team of professional archaeologists. Includes Photos, plans, reconstructions, texts and inscriptions, as well as much interpretive material to help orient yourself to the site.

The Perseus Digital Library www.perseus.tufts.edu
A wealth of information relevant to our subject: Ancient texts and translations, extensive photo archives of an impressive range of sites, and plenty of secondary material.

The Stoa Consortium www.stoa.org
'A Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities', with links to many projects of interest, e.g. Pompeian Households.

ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION

15%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:

1. Attendance

Your attendance is required at *all* of our Tuesday & Thursday meetings.

2. Reading

You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to class a copy of any reading that has been assigned.

3. Active participation

You are expected to arrive at our weekly meeting having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and *actively* to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week.

IN-CLASS TESTS (2x20%)

40%

Two in-class tests, of 1 ½ hours each, one on the topography of Athens and one on the topography of Rome, will be given and will each be worth 20% of your final grade.

The Athens Test **Oct. 7** (Week 5)

The Rome Test **Nov. 23** (Week 12)

GROUP WEB-SITE PROJECT

20%

In groups of three or four, you will be asked to create an informative web-site about a particular aspect of Athenian or Roman topography. An example of a good web-site will include, but not be limited to:

- A full description of the structure(s) in question
- Photos, drawings, plans, reconstructions of the structure(s)
- Any relevant literary, epigraphic, and numismatic evidence
- History of the structure itself
- The range of modern interpretations of the structure
- The wider contextual relevance of the structure and its interpretation
- An annotated bibliography
- Links to existing sites of relevance

Each group will also present its web-site to the class (a 10 to 15 minute presentation) in the hope that the web-sites might become a useful resource for the whole class as you each begin to research your final paper topics.

Submission and presentation of web-sites: **Nov. 4** (Week 9).

Web-site competition votes due before class on **Nov. 9**.

RESEARCH PAPER OF 10-12 PAGES

25%

The paper should be a research paper of 10 to 12 pages on a theme of your choice relevant to the historical topography of Athens and/or Rome.

To encourage the early research and formulation of ideas, you will each be required to schedule and attend a 20-30 minute meeting with me **before Friday, Nov. 19** to discuss a 2-page outline of your proposed paper, which you are required to bring to that meeting.

The research paper will be due on the last day of classes: **Thursday, Dec. 9.**

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

WEEK 1

Sept 9 **Studying Ancient Athens and Rome**

WEEK 2

Sept 14 ***Polis*: the Ancient City of Athens**

Reading:

- Camp, *The Athenian Agora*, pp. 8-33.
- Hurwit, *The Acropolis*, pp. 1-48.

Sept 16 **The Athenian Acropolis**

Reading:

- Hurwit, *The Acropolis*, pp. 87-191.

WEEK 3

Sept 21 **Religion in the Greek city**

Reading:

- J. Neils, 'The Panathenaia: An Introduction', in J. Neils (ed.), *Goddess and Polis. The Panathenaic Festival in Ancient Athens* (1992) pp. 13-27. [online]
- Hurwit, *The Acropolis*, pp. 224-251.

Sept 23 **The Athenian Agora**

Reading:

- Camp, *The Athenian Agora*, pp. 36-182.

WEEK 4

Sept 28 **Democracy in the Agora**

Reading:

- Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians* 42-69 [online].
- P. Millett, 'Encounters in the Agora', in P. Cartledge et al. (eds.), *Kosmos: essays in order, conflict and community in classical Athens* (1998) pp. 203-228. [online]

Sept 30

Greek Domestic Space

Reading:

- M. Jameson, 'Private space and the Greek city', in O. Murray and S. Price, *The Greek City from Homer to Alexander* (1990) pp. 171-195. [online]
- L. Nevett, *House and Society in the Ancient Greek World* (1999) pp. 53-79. [online]

WEEK 5

Oct 5

Recreational Space in the Greek City

Reading:

- R.E. Wycherley, *How the Greeks Built Cities* (1962) pp. 139-174. [online]
- N. Fisher, 'Gymnasia and the democratic values of leisure', in P. Cartledge et al. (eds.), *Kosmos: essays in order, conflict and community in classical Athens* (1998) pp. 84-104. [online]

Oct 7

TEST #1 – ATHENIAN TOPOGRAPHY

WEEK 6

Oct 12

Urbs: the Ancient City of Rome

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 1-85.
- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 1-9.

Oct 14

Temples and Shrines in the Roman City

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 213-240.
- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 29-41.

WEEK 7

Oct 19

Religion in Rome

Reading:

- M. Beard and M. Crawford, *Rome in the Late Republic* (1985) pp. 25-39. [online]
- M. Beard, J. North, and S. Price, *Religions of Rome* (1998) pp. 167-210. [online]

Oct 21 **The Roman Forum under the Republic**

Reading:

- Polybius, *Histories* Book 6 [online].
- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 101-122.
- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 43-101.

WEEK 8

Oct 26 **The Forum from Republic to Empire**

Reading:

- J. Patterson, 'The city of Rome: from Republic to Empire', *Journal of Roman Studies* 82 (1992) pp. 186-215 [available on JSTOR]
- N. Purcell, 'Forum Romanum' in *Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae*, pp. 325-341. [online]

Oct 28 **The Palatine Hill and the Imperial Palace**

Reading:

- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 131-157.

WEEK 9

Nov 2 **The Imperial Fora**

Reading:

- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 103-128.

Nov 4 **GROUP WEB-SITE Submission and Presentation**

WEEK 10

Nov 9 ***Domus* and *insula*: Roman Domestic Space**

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 157-182.
- L. Richardson, *Pompeii: an architectural history* (1988), pp. 382-400. [online]
- Vitruvius, *On Architecture*, Book 6. [online]

Nov 11 **NO MEETING – Veteran's Day**

WEEK 11

Nov 16 **Feeding the City: Rome and the *annona***

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 89-100 and 123-156.
- G. Rickman, *The Corn Supply of Ancient Rome* (1980) pp. 156-197. [online]
- Familiarize yourself with the topography of Rome's port at ancient Ostia via the excellent Ostia antica website at www.ostia-antica.org.

Nov 18 ***Thermae*: Roman Baths**

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 198-212.
- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 327-331 (Baths of Caracalla), 248-252 (Baths of Diocletian).
- G.G. Fagan, *Bathing in Public in the Roman World* (1999) pp. 12-39. [online]

WEEK 12

Nov 23 **TEST #2 – ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY**

Nov 25 NO MEETING - Thanksgiving

WEEK 13

Nov 30 **Circus, Theatre, and Amphitheatre**

Reading:

- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 225-240.
- Coarelli, *Rome*, pp. 321-326 (Circus maximus), 389-390 (Circus of Maxentius), 283-284 (Theatre of Pompey), 267-268 (Theatre of Marcellus), 281-282 (Theatre of Balbus), 159-175 (Valley of the Colosseum).
- A.J. Brothers, 'Buildings for entertainment', in I.M. Barton (ed.), *Roman Public Buildings* (1989) pp. 97-125. [online]

Dec 2 ***Roman Bath* – NOVA Documentary**

WEEK 14

Dec 7 **Conquest and the City: the Roman Triumph**

Dec 9 **Conclusions – RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

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<http://ocw.mit.edu>

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