The Eternal City has been transformed many times since its legendary founding by Romulus and Remus. This course will present an overview of the history of the city of Rome in antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Baroque period, and modern times. Co-taught by a historian and a historian of architecture the class will examine the ways that site, architecture, urbanism, and politics have interacted to produce one of the world’s densest urban fabrics. The course will include extensive study of Rome’s major architectural and urban monuments over time (e.g., the Forum, Pantheon, St. Peter’s, the Capitoline hill) as well as discussions of the dynamic forms of Roman power, religious and secular. In addition to visual evidence we will make use of literary and historical texts, documents, and film.

**Assignments:**
4-5 page paper on Virgil’s *Aeneid*, due on 30 June
4-5 page paper on *The Life of Cola di Rienzo*, due on 7 July
Two in-class visual analysis exercises
Weekly map exercises
Research presentation (July 26 & 28) and final research paper (8-10 pages plus bibliography) due on 11 August. (For this project students choose a Roman site or monument and, using visual and textual sources, research its history in three distinct periods of Rome’s past.)

**Books available at Broad Street Books:**
John Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*
*The Life of Cola di Rienzo*, trans. John Wright
Susan Vandiver Nicassio, *Imperial City: Rome under Napoleon*
Borden Painter Jr., *Mussolini’s Rome: Rebuilding the Eternal City*
[Christopher Hibbert, *Rome: The Biography of a City*] recommended

**Course Reading**
These are designated “Course Reading” and can be downloaded from the Moodle site.

**Contact information**
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Week 1  Prehistory to the Pax Romana: From the Seven Hills to Emperor Hadrian

We get acquainted with the site of the city of Rome and explore the evolution of its government and architecture from prehistoric times (8th c. BCE) down through the Roman republic. We then explore the reshaping of the city by Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE), who laid the foundations of future imperial rule, and the reframing of Roman history by his poet Virgil, whose epic Aeneid gave Romans a cultural claim to rival the Greeks. We end with the zenith of the Roman empire, the “imperial peace,” under the emperor Hadrian (117-38).

Read:
Hibbert, Rome: The Biography of a City, chs. 1, 2 [recommended]
Stambaugh, The Ancient Roman City, chs. 1-5, 7, 13
Virgil, The Aeneid (trans. Mandelbaum), bks. 1, 8, 11, 12

Course Reading: Favro, “The Roman Forum and Roman Memory” (Moodle)

*Paper topic (answer based solely on evidence in Virgil’s poem): What do gods and goddesses want from mortals? Does piety pay?

Week 2  Late Antiquity to the Renaissance: From Emperor Constantine to Alberti

We begin with the first Christian emperor Constantine (312-37) and trace the remarkable transformation of the city under the impact of Christianity, charting the rise of the Bishop of Rome to hegemony over the western Catholic Church, the development of pilgrimage sites, and the creation of a papal monarchy with Rome at its head. We then examine the effects of the papacy’s departure from Rome in the 1300s and the local Roman attempt to restore the ancient republic led by Cola di Rienzo (1347-54). We conclude with the beginnings of the Renaissance, the revived interest in classical Rome exemplified by the poet Petrarch (1304-74) and the architect Leon Battista Alberti (1404-72).

Read:
Hibbert, Rome, chs. 3-7 [recommended]
Stambaugh, The Ancient Roman City, chs. 6, 12
The Life of Cola di Rienzo, trans. J. Wright

Course Reading (Moodle):
Krautheimer, Rome: Profile of a City, excerpt
Petrarch, Familiar Letters, excerpt
*Paper topic (answer based solely on the evidence of the anonymous fourteenth-century chronicle entitled *The Life of Cola di Rienzo*): What specific Roman places, traditions, individuals, or texts from Rome's "double past" (classical and Christian) does Cola di Rienzo mobilize for his revolution?

**Week 3 High Renaissance and Baroque Rome: From Bramante to Bernini**

The dream of returning to the grandeur of antiquity powered the Renaissance in Rome from 1450 to 1520, but the Protestant Reformation sparked a backlash and the remaking of Rome as a militant Catholic icon (1550-1600). Emerging from this process in the Baroque period (1600-1700) Rome became the model of a new kind of European city, the capital city, emulated throughout Europe (and eventually its colonies) not just as a religious symbol but also as a leader in architecture and the arts.

Read:
Hibbert, *Rome*, chs. 8-12 [recommended]

Course Reading (Moodle):
- Ackerman, “The Planning of Renaissance Rome”
- Blondin, “Power Made Visible: Pope Sixtus IV as ‘Urbis Restaurator’”
- Raphael and Castiglione, *Letter to Leo X*
- Gregory Martin, *Roma Sancta*, excerpt
- Krautheimer, *Rome of Alexander VII*, excerpt

**Week 4 18th to 20th Century Rome: From the Grand Tour to Mussolini**

Images of Rome in the graphic arts gave the city a significance and impact far beyond its walls. We will visit Olin Library Special Collections and the Davison Art Center to see some of the books and prints, especially by Piranesi (1720-78), which helped to make Rome a central artistic reference point. After looking at how Roman ideas (and ideas of Rome) influenced foreigners in the 1700s, we turn to the revolutionary changes in the city’s urban form first under Napoleon and later when it became the capital of united Italy in 1870. The week culminates with Benito Mussolini’s extraordinary attempts to renew the imperial glory of Rome. We will examine his dramatic transformation of the city in the 1930s and its influence on the face of the present-day city.

Read:
Hibbert, *Rome*, chs. 13-17 [recommended]
Nicassio, *Imperial City: Rome Under Napoleon*
Painter, *Mussolini’s Rome*

Course Reading (Moodle or JSTOR):
- Goethe, *Italian Journey*, excerpt (Rome, 1786-87)
Week 5  Post War and Contemporary Rome: From Fellini to Zaha Hadid

The last week of the course will bring us to the Rome of today, the capital of the Italian Republic (1947- ). We will look at some of the cultural developments (notably film) and major architectural monuments in which Rome has been setting and protagonist. Students will also make presentations and engage in class discussion of their research projects this week.

Course Reading (Moodle):
  D. and L. Caldwell, *Rome Continuing Encounters between Past and Present* (selections)