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):

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

   Lacus Curtius [online] 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 [online] 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 [online] 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 [online] 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:
  o Camp, The Athenian Agora, pp. 8-33.

Sept 16  The Athenian Acropolis
Reading:
  o Hurwit, The Acropolis, pp. 87-191.

WEEK 3
Sept 21  Religion in the Greek city
Reading:

Sept 23  The Athenian Agora
Reading:
  o Camp, The Athenian Agora, pp. 36-182.

WEEK 4
Sept 28  Democracy in the Agora
Reading:
  o Aristotle, Constitution of the Athenians 42-69 [online].
Sept 30  **Greek Domestic Space**  
Reading:  

**WEEK 5**

Oct 5  **Recreational Space in the Greek City**  
Reading:  

Oct 7  **TEST #1 – ATHENIAN TOPOGRAPHY**

**WEEK 6**

Oct 12  **Urbs: the Ancient City of Rome**  
Reading:  

Oct 14  **Temples and Shrines in the Roman City**  
Reading:  

**WEEK 7**

Oct 19  **Religion in Rome**  
Reading:  
Oct 21  The Roman Forum under the Republic
   Reading:
      o Polybius, Histories Book 6 [online].

WEEK 8

Oct 26  The Forum from Republic to Empire
   Reading:
      o N. Purcell, 'Forum Romanum' in Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae, pp. 325-341. [online]

Oct 28  The Palatine Hill and the Imperial Palace
   Reading:

WEEK 9

Nov 2   The Imperial Fora
   Reading:
      o Coarelli, Rome, pp. 103-128.

Nov 4   GROUP WEB-SITE Submission and Presentation

WEEK 10

Nov 9   Domus and insula: Roman Domestic Space
   Reading:
      o L. Richardson, Pompeii: an architectural history (1988), pp. 382-400. [online]
      o 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:
  o Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 89-100 and 123-156.
  o 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:

WEEK 12

Nov 23  TEST #2 – ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY

Nov 25  NO MEETING - Thanksgiving

WEEK 13

Nov 30  Circus, Theatre, and Amphitheatres
Reading:

Dec 2  Roman Bath – NOVA Documentary

WEEK 14

Dec 7  Conquest and the City: the Roman Triumph

Dec 9  Conclusions – RESEARCH PAPER DUE