THE ANCIENT CITY

Spring 2008
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 there is marked thus: ***.

3) **Web Resources:**

     The official website of this class, containing images and texts relevant to all that we will cover. Very new and constantly being updated!

   - **Athenian Agora Excavations**  [www.agathe.gr](http://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](http://www.jstor.org)
     The Scholarly Journal Archive, including several relevant classical studies and archaeology journals.

   - **Lacus Curtius**  [penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home](http://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](http://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](http://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 March 6 (Week 5)
The Rome Test May 1 (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
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: April 8 (Week 9).
Web-site competition votes due by April 10.

RESEARCH PAPER OF 10-12 PAGES

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 a 20-30 minute meeting with me before Friday, April 25 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, May 15.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

WEEK 1

Feb 5 Studying Ancient Athens and Rome
Feb 7 Polis: the Ancient City of Athens
Reading:

WEEK 2

Feb 12 The Athenian Acropolis
Reading:
Feb 14 Religion in the Greek City
Reading:
    *Goddess and Polis. The Panathenaic Festival in Ancient Athens*
Feb 19   NO MEETING – Monday Schedule

Feb 21   The Athenian Agora
Reading:

WEEK 4

Feb 26   Democracy in the Agora
Reading:
  o Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians* 42-69 [available online at the Perseus Digital Library].

Feb 28   Greek Domestic Space
Reading:

WEEK 5

Mar 4   Recreational Space in the Greek City
Reading:

Mar 6   TEST #1 – ATHENIAN TOPOGRAPHY

WEEK 6

Mar 11   Urbs: the Ancient City of Rome
Reading:
  o Please also familiarize yourself with Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 1-59.
Mar 13  Temples and Shrines in the Roman City
   Reading:
   o Claridge, *Rome*: please read the entries relevant to all the sites listed under ‘altars’, ‘shrines’, and ‘temples’ in the index.

WEEK 7

Mar 18  Religion in Rome
   Reading:

Mar 20  The Roman Forum under the Republic
   Reading:
   o Polybius, *Histories* Book 6 [available online at Lacus Curtius].

NB: MARCH 25 & 27 – NO MEETING – SPRING VACATION

WEEK 8

Apr 1  The Forum from Republic to Empire
   Reading:

Apr 3  The Palatine Hill and the Imperial Palace
   Reading:

WEEK 9

Apr 8  GROUP WEB-SITE Submission and Presentation

Apr 10  The Imperial Fora
   Reading:
**WEEK 10**

**Apr 15**  
*Domus and insula: Roman Domestic Space*  
Reading:  

**Apr 17**  
*Feeding the City: Rome and the *annona*  
Reading:  
- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 89-100 and 123-156.  
- Familiarize yourself with the topography of Rome’s port at ancient Ostia via the excellent Ostia antica website at www.ostia-antica.org.

**WEEK 11**

**Apr 22**  
NO MEETING – Patriots Day

**Apr 24**  
*Circus, Theatre, and Amphitheatre*  
Reading:  
- Claridge, *Rome*, pp. 264-265 (Circus maximus), 336-341 (Circus of Maxentius), 214 (Theatre of Pompey), 243-245 (Theatre of Marcellus), 220 (Theatre of Balbus), 276-283 (Colosseum).  

**WEEK 12**

**Apr 29**  
*Thermae: Roman Baths*  
Reading:  
- Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, pp. 198-212.  

**May 1**  
TEST #2 – ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY

**WEEK 13**

**May 6**  
*Roman Bath* – NOVA Documentary
May 8  Conquest and the City: the Roman Triumph

WEEK 14

May 13  The Ancient City on Film

May 15  Conclusions – RESEARCH PAPER DUE