

# Art & Archaeology of Ancient Rome

Professor Mark D. Fullerton



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Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30-1:18 Page Hall 0048

Starting from a small hilltop village, the kings, magistrates and citizens of ancient Rome built an empire more vast than any the world had ever seen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Tigris, from Britain to North Africa. The Romans used many techniques to acquire, govern, and control this enormous and culturally diverse area, among them the use of art and architecture to create environments and disseminate images meant to support the idea of central rule and demonstrate to its subjects the tangible benefits of the Roman Peace. In this course, we will consider the entire chronological span, from prehistoric Italy to the beginnings of the Christian world under Constantine the Great. We will examine and interpret many types of monument including: buildings, paintings, mosaics, sculpture, and luxury crafts and consider them as integral parts of the historical record. We will also study the major archaeological sites that have helped construct our knowledge of the Roman Empire, including Rome itself, Italian cities like Ostia, Pompeii, and Herculaneum, and representative provincial sites in Europe, Western Asia and North Africa.

Although a familiarity with ancient history and culture will be useful (as, for example, encountered in History 111, or History of Art 201, or any of a number of Classical Civilization courses), there are no prerequisites for this course and no previous coursework is assumed.