XAVIER UNIVERSITY WINTER ROME PROGRAM
WINTER 2016 – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATES: January 1 – 10, 2016

HOUSING: St. John’s University, Via Marcantonio Colonna, 21A, 00192 Rome
http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/international/globalstudies/facilities/rome/photo_gallery.stj

COURSE OFFERING: 200/300 level core philosophy that satisfies PHIL 200 Philosophical Perspectives or the Humanities Perspectives requirement in the Transition and New core. The course is also an ERS Focus elective

INCLUDED EXTRAS: a day trip to Florence via high speed train; all museum and gallery admissions; transit pass for the bus system in Rome; welcome and farewell dinners

COST: $1965 excluding airfare. The cost covers everything mentioned in Included Extras above.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS:

Saturday, January 2: This is the general introduction to the course. Our goal is to study the monumental architecture of the city of Rome as a complex set of “texts” that communicate political ideals as well as make an attempt to construct a coherent historical narrative about Rome itself. After arrival we will take a walk around the historical center as an introduction to the course as well as the city. Our main destination for discussion will be The Pantheon. Built in the second century and a Christian Church since the sixth century, it is the best-preserved ancient monument in the city. It is also a perfect metaphor for Rome itself. Its imagery is layered, as the building is at once a temple to the gods of the empire, a Christian church, the burial place of the first two kings of the Italian secular state, as well as the burial place of Raphael. We will examine its particular iconography as a monument to Pythagorean philosophy.

Site Visit: Introduction to the course & city - The Pantheon

Sunday, January 3: Our focus today falls on Imperial Rome. Our site visit will concern the most famous ruins of the Imperial period. Specifically, we shall walk the Ancient Forum, visit the Coliseum, the Capitoline Hill as well as several other classical sites. We shall examine the manner in which ancient ruins become the symbolic vocabulary for historical memory and public identity, and we shall discuss the manner in which their placement in the modern city expresses historical awareness. The Agnew article will serve as a useful introduction, and the White essay will provide the necessary theoretical background.


Evening Visit: Largo Argentina and Capitoline Hill James Ackerman, “Marcus Aurelius on the Capitoline Hill”

Monday, January 4: Today we begin the first of a two-day study of the imagery of Christian Rome. Historians refer to this period as “The Second Rome” or “The Rome of the Popes”, Imperial Rome or “The Rome of the Emperors” being “The First”. Today we will center our attention on St. Peter's Square and the Basilica itself. In addition, we shall visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. Our aim is to develop a counter-vocabulary of public imagery that expresses the world-view of the Church in opposition to the ruins of the pagan, imperial period. Reference will also be made of the manner in which the Fascist period sought to reconcile itself to the Church in the late 1920's. We will also visit the Gesu, Mother Church of the Society of Jesus and burial place of St. Ignatius (and Francis Xavier’s forearm).

Site Visit: St. Peter’s Basilica, The Vatican Museums 3:00- 5:30 Classroom Readings:
**Tuesday January 5:** We continue a view of Christian Rome with some church visits and at the Vatican for the Pope’s mid-day blessing of the city in preparation for the Festival of Epiphany coming up on January 6. We will also transition to Rome as capital of the nation state (1870).

- **Site Visit:** Various churches
  - 3:00-5:30
  - Classroom Readings: Bosworth, Chapter 5

- **Evening Visit:** Piazza del Popolo & The Pincio

**Wednesday, January 6 EPIPHANY:** Today is a holiday in Rome as it is the day when children receive gifts in honor of the Wise Men making their way to the newborn Christ in Bethlehem. We will attend the parade at St. Peter’s and stay for the papal blessing.

**Thursday, January 7:** The secular state engaged in a frenzy of monumental construction in an effort to subvert the influence of the Church over Italians who now came together as citizens of a modern nation-state. The Church had opposed unification, so the new nation had to combat the religious imagery of the Church with a secular vocabulary of its own. The greatest example will be The Vittoriano, referred to today as “The Wedding Cake” among other derisive names. We shall examine the manner in which it seeks to reference the symbolism of the ancient period.

- **Site Visit:** The Vittoriano
  - 3:00-5:30
  - Readings: David Atkinson & Denis Cosgrove, “Urban Rhetoric & Embodied Identities”
  - Bosworth, Chapter 6

- **Evening Visit:** Open

**Friday, January 8:** Today we make a day trip to Florence. Florence has a very different identity when compared to Rome. If Rome is layered, Florence is built firmly on more secular and Renaissance foundations. We will examine the public spaces around The Palazzo Vecchio and the public benches that can be seen on private palazzi and at the Loggia dei Lanzi. We shall also identify public symbols that seek to identify Cosimo di Medici with the classical models of Augustus and Hercules.

- **Excursion:** Florence – Palazzo Vecchio, Loggia dei Lanzi, The Baptistery, Santa Croce, etc.
  - Readings: Yvonne Elet, “Seats of Power”

**Saturday, January 9:** The modern Italian state embarked on monumental construction that would deliberately undermine the imagery of Papal Rome. The Statue of Giordano Bruno in the Campo di Fiori caused days of street riots and deaths. On the Gianicolo, the statue of Garibaldi faces the city but keeps one eye on the pope. The statue to his wife, Anita, is just down the hill, added by Mussolini in the early 1930’s.

- **Site Visit:** Campo di Fiori, The Gianicolo Hill
- **Classroom:** TBD

- **Evening Visit:** Santa Maria in Trastevere

**Sunday, January 10:** Return to the USA