Rome: Urban Studies

Class Format: Seminar, lectures, student presentations
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Completion of all required history courses or upon approval of instructor*
Meeting Times: 2:00-3:20 Tuesday and Thursday
Meeting Place: TBA
Requirements: There will be assigned readings and class discussions centered on exercises; your participation at all levels of the class will contribute 25% of your final grade.
Projects: There will be a series of approximately 8 to 10 graphic/model exercises that will focus on a variety of themes as they influence our understanding of Roman urbanism. These projects will constitute 75% of your grade.

* This course is highly recommended for 2016 Rome Summer Program participants

Course Description

The city of Rome is a repository of urban events, ideas and places. Its 3,000 year history is a fascinating story of how a city can grow and transform over time. The urban elements of the city: its topography—hills, valleys, flood plain and infrastructure—city walls, aqueducts, streets, great baths—act as counterpoint to its architecture and urban ensembles. This course will investigate the city’s structure focusing on its urban legacy and its potential lessons for contemporary architects, landscape architects, urban designers. The scale of investigation will span from the entire city structure—its famous seven hills and long streets and vistas—to the more intimate urban “set pieces” that define its many diverse places within the larger fabric. The relationship between its infrastructure, architecture and urban design, including its “Micro-Urbanism” will be the primary area of investigation.
Some of the topics that will be examined are:

- Micro-Urbanism of Rome: working theory for investigating city structure
- Architectural Representation of the city and its buildings in context:
  - Edifices Moderne di Rome (three volumes) Paul Marie Letarouilly
- The 1748 Nolli Map
- The 1676 Falda Map
- SARA Nistri or modern map of Rome using photogrammetry
- The Google Revolution
- Severio Muratori and the Typomorphology of Rome
- Forma Urbis Romae by Rodolfo Lanciani which presents “layered” history of the city
- Urban landscapes as represented by Giuseppe Vasi
- “Vedutismo” or Urban Landscapes: the Vedutisti: Panini, Vanvitelli, Vernet, Piranesi and others
- Guide Books as windows to the city
- Roma Capitale or urban transformations from 1870 until the rise of fascism
- Flooding in Rome
- Topography of Rome and the Seven Hills
- Rome under Mussolini: “Sventramenti”
- Urban Ensembles
- The Villa and Garden as Urban Commentary
- Mega-Buildings in Rome
- City Streets and Pathway
- Festivals as Urban Theatre
- The Rioni or districts of Rome: Neighborhood Places
- The Disabitato or Uninhabited Areas within the Walls
- Infrastructure: walls, gates, ports, roads, aqueducts, fountains, sewers etc.
- The Roman Bath: from the baths of Allessandrina to the Baths of Caracalla
- GIS methods for studying Rome