

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

**The American University of Rome
Archeology and Classics Program**

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Christianity and the Roman Empire (100-425 AD)
Course Number: CLRE 202
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 102

Required Textbook (*subject to change*)

There is no set text for this course. Students will be given copied of required reading for discussion.

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

Course description

This course offers an overview of the history of the Early Church from 100-425 AD, focusing on the confrontation of Christianity with Roman life and thought. It will examine that relationship both from the early Christian and early Roman perspectives. Field trips to historical sites and museums in Rome will be used to reanimate ancient Roman history.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. outline the major events of the early history of Christianity, as narrated and dramatized in contemporary source material both Christian and Roman (in translation)
2. discuss the original cultural contexts in which these texts were written, and critically assess their role in ancient society
3. formulate arguments and produce written commentaries on historical topics

Course Learning Activities

- Out of class reading and writing assignments: students will read texts in translation (as per the attached schedule) in preparation for seminar discussion.
- Students will produce a final research paper. The final paper will consist of the development of a thesis, analysis of textual reference and use of textual evidence and conclusions.
- In class analysis: students will read and analyze primary texts; they will become familiar with analytic methodology and critical terms; they will answer orally and in writing to questions stemming from the assigned readings. Critical and interpretive essays will also be subject to critical analysis.

- In class discussions: Students will participate in discussions, sustain their views and ideas by using new and specialized lexicon.
- Oral presentations: students will choose a topic which they will prepare and present to the class, using elements of critical terminology already learned.

Assessment tools

Discussions the assigned readings	15%
Oral presentations	20%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	25%
Final paper	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
Week 1	The Roman Empire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction: the Roman Empire. - Emperor Augustus and the birth of Jesus: pagan Rome meets Christianity
Week 2	Roman and Christian: “render unto Caesar” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site - Calling of the apostles - The calling of Paul and the first persecutions
Week 3	The persecutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site - Christian and roman philosophies: Paul and Seneca - On-site - Midterm Exam
Week 4	Presentation week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations - On-site
Week 5	The Constantinian settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emperor Constantine, and the legalization of Christianity - On-site - Research paper due - The canon of the bible and Saint Jerome - On-site - Final Exam

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		