

FAH391Y0 Studies Abroad in Ancient Art and Architecture: Greek and Roman Art and its Reception in France

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INSTRUCTORS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION – LEARNING GOALS

This is a course on Greek and Roman Art in French collections, as well as the reception of antiquity in French art and architecture. The course is based in its first part in Paris; it includes a visit to the South of France with the town of Nîmes as a base during the last 12 days of the course. In Paris, we will visit the spectacular collections of the Musée du Louvre. We will also visit the Cabinet des Médailles with its important collections and other architectural landmarks and the ancient collection in the Museum of Petit Palais that opened recently to the public. In southern France we will visit three important museums with Graeco-Roman collections (Nîmes, Musée de la Romanité, Arles, Musée Départemental Art Antique, and Avignon, Musée Lapidaire) and several Gallo-Roman sites: Nîmes, Orange, Arles, Glanum, Vaison-la-Romaine, Pont-du-Gard.

The course offers unique opportunities for experiential learning. It is designed to communicate a sense of wonder, and to help students formulate meaningful and productive questions in direct confrontation with original objects from a distant culture.

Do not expect a ‘guided tour’ (although we will occasionally have those as well), but rather a joint exploration in which you are expected to actively participate. This will be, to some degree, an open process, and considerable flexibility is expected.

There will be no traditional classroom time; instead, during our museum visits and monument tours, we are going to study artworks/artifacts in a variety of media (e.g., sculpture, vases, gems, metalware) and explore architectural landmarks and their relation to ancient art and architecture.

REQUIREMENTS/ EXPECTATIONS

Please pay attention to the guidelines provided to you by the Summer Abroad Office regarding safety, abiding of local laws etc.

Attendance is mandatory and will be registered for each activity throughout the course. Please make sure to notify us in advance in case you need to miss a class due to illness or other mishap.

Punctuality is of the utmost importance since we are expected to enter the museum as a group. Please make sure to calculate enough time for the commute to your destination.

We will always be mindful of your comfort and plan for breaks but be prepared to walk and stand for at least three hours every day. Comfortable shoes, water bottle and snacks are of the essence!

Walking tours will take place even in inclement weather, so bring a rain jacket. We may need to adjust the start time of a monument tour depending on the weather forecast.

For the field trips in Southern France we will have a coach bus at our disposal. Again, punctuality is of the utmost importance in order to arrive on time at our destination.

You are required to keep a journal (in analogue or digital format) where you will record your observations, thoughts and reflections on the artworks, artifacts and monuments encountered throughout the course (see below, 'assignments'). You can also include sketches.

Digital camera (most of you will be using your smartphone camera, so make sure to back up your images), or you are welcome to bring a separate camera.

Preparation of introductory readings on Greek and Roman art, Classicism in the French Renaissance and the history of the collections of Ancient Art in French museums before the start of the course. The readings will be available on the course website (Quercus under **Files**).

ASSIGNMENTS – EVALUATION

We have compiled a large number of secondary sources (articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, excerpts from monographs, museum catalogues etc.) in order to provide you with background knowledge and to facilitate your research. The sources are organized according to subject matter (in **Quercus** under **Files**).

Journal keeping: hand in the best five (5) pages of your journal in digital format. The pieces you discuss in your journal should be related to one of the broader themes listed below. It is also a good idea to put museum objects or architectural structures/monuments into dialogue with one another (e.g., by comparing and contrasting them). (30% total)

When taking notes for your journal and selecting objects for your participation/ presentation, you will be asked to focus on specific themes. Most of these themes are broadly defined and will have to be narrowed down over the course of your research, for example by discussing a small selection of artworks/monuments, or by focusing on a particular aspect of your topic

(e.g., if you are interested in themes on ancient Greek vases, you will select vases depicting symposium scenes, mythological imagery, domestic scenes etc.)

1. The female nude in ancient Greek and Roman art
2. The male nude in ancient Greek and Roman art
3. Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Art
4. Greek Myth in Ancient Art (vase painting or sculpture)
5. Ancient Greek architectural sculpture
6. Themes on ancient Greek vases (mythological or every day life scenes)
7. Hellenistic Art
8. Childhood and education in ancient art
9. Ancient funerary monuments: Death and Commemoration in Antiquity
10. Roman portraiture
11. 'Decorative' sculpture in the Roman world
12. Small scale sculpture in antiquity (bronze, terracotta)
13. Roman metal ware and jewelry
14. Etruscan Art
15. The reception of ancient art and architecture in France, from the Renaissance to the 19th century
16. Ancient Nimes
16. Architecture of amphitheaters and theaters in ancient Gaul
17. Urban planning in Roman Gaul
18. Roman temple architecture
19. Roman triumphal art

Oral participation, on-site – you should prepare for on-site visits by doing the readings on Quercus, in advance. This will provide you with crucial background knowledge and will enable you to participate in the discussions we are going to have in front of the objects or monuments, and when visiting archaeological sites. In museums, you may be given limited time (ca. 30-40 minutes, but this may vary greatly) to explore a room or gallery on your own and select one or several artworks/artifacts related to one of the broader themes listed above. Students will be

asked to form a small group and then you will be asked to briefly introduce the class to these particular artworks/artifacts and formulate one or several interesting or productive questions (on each object) for the class to discuss). We will also be assessing (25 % total)

Assignment on French Classicism and the reception of ancient art in France

A file in Word, Power point, Google slides or Prezi format (converted to pdf): containing ca. 10-15 photographs taken by yourselves and a text of ca. 600 - 900 words (minimum). You should discuss a monument, artworks, iconography or elements of architectural design you observed during our visits to the Pantheon, Church of the Madeleine, Arc de Triomphe, Column on Place Vendôme etc. with a strong ancient theme (iconography, design principles etc). (Worth 20%)

Assignment on ancient Gaul

A file in Word, Power point, Google slides or Prezi format (converted to pdf): containing ca. 10-15 photographs taken by yourselves and a text of ca. 600 – 900 words (minimum). You should discuss a monument, group of artworks or a topic related to Roman Gaul (again you can pick an architectural structure, an artwork or several artworks from our visits to the museums or focus on design principles or questions of urbanism). (Worth 25%).

Marking scheme

Journal keeping (15%+15% =) 30 %

Oral participation 25%

Assignment on the reception of ancient art and architecture in France 20%

Assignment on Roman Gaul 25%