COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This study abroad course immerses you into the process of globalization in ancient Rome. While walking its ancient streets and standing amidst its colossal monuments you will find yourself observing first hand the formation of this ancient cosmopolitan megalopolis, the effects of terrestrial and maritime expansion dictated by economic, political, and military pressures, and the demise of its empire, but only after establishing itself as a center of medieval Christianity. You will work through the two millennia of globalization processes, and, impossible in contemporary globalization studies, the study of globalization in ancient Rome allows you to follow not only the causes and tensions of globalization but also its solutions and legacies as well as its continuous presence. You will relive archaic encounters between foreign maritime traders (Phoenicians, Greeks) and indigenous Italic cultures (Etruscans, Romans, Sabines), the republican amalgamation of European (Spanish, Gallic, Greek), Asian (Persian, Babylonian, Pergamene), and African (Egyptian, Carthaginian) peoples and customs, the imperial redistributions of religious cults (Mithraism, Christianity, Judaism), and the frictions caused by the incursions of “barbarians” as well as the ultimate amalgamations which turned them into medieval “Europeans.”

To study these complex processes you will have the unique opportunity to become familiar with many of the rich resources Rome offers—extensive archaeological sites like the Forum, Colosseum, and Nero’s Domus Aurea; and fascinating museums set in Renaissance villas, Baroque palaces, and even Diocletian’s gigantic ancient bath complex. Meanwhile you will be reading both ancient literature and contemporary scholarship to enhance your visit, expand your knowledge, and broaden your chronological horizons.

Often students describe this kind of class as one of their most memorable and enjoyable educational experiences. By moving out of the traditional classroom and trekking through a street of Etruscan tombs, surveying the Circus Maximus, and standing where Julius Caesar was assassinated, you will find an entirely new way to stimulate your interest in learning. You will find yourself seeking out other opportunities to participate in educational travel—for the rest of your life. Very often this program stimulates interest in studying the ancient world; more than a few students have declared a major or minor in Classical Civilization after taking it. Similarly, it also makes it clear that knowledge is not just “found” in a book, but that it has to be compiled and extracted from primary literature as well as the study of material culture. Particularly when studying antiquity, you will learn that gaps in our knowledge are inevitable but that we are still pursuing them from different and innovative approaches.

And lots not forget that around you the entire time will be the modern city of Rome, a modern city with its rich past now itself populated by many non-Italians whom you will encounter on the streets and in the restaurants. Hopefully by the end of the course you will be able to understand this contemporary process as a twenty-first century echo of processes that took place many centuries ago.
FORMAT:

The course is offered in two parts. The format for the first part of the course will consist of at least six hours of classroom meetings and lectures on campus from late October through early December. Some of these meetings will include PowerPoint presentations on archaic, republican, imperial, and paleochristian Rome. You will be given three or four assignments consisting of word lists—important names and terms—which you will identify from online sources, complete, and turn in. Doing this will make your time overseas in Rome much more interesting and productive.

An additional meeting will introduce you to the itinerary of the trip itself, what you should anticipate along the way, how you should prepare for the trip, and what will be expected of you. We will do this over pizza.

The second part of the course consists of lectures which are given on archaeological sites and in museums in Rome, and readings from a custom-prepared “Orange Guide,” which will be given to you before departure. Generally speaking we will be visiting one archaeological site and/or one museum in the morning, break for lunch, and then visit another archaeological site and/or museum in the afternoon.

READINGS:

The custom-prepared workbook—the cost is included in your program fee—contains numerous primary and secondary works, descriptions of the sites that we will be visiting, maps, plans, charts, and a number of color illustrations. Generally you will be reading 5-20 pages per day. We will discuss strategies for making sure you maintain a reading schedule throughout the itinerary.

GRADES:

Grades will be based on the successful completion of the written assignments before departure (10%), and two papers to be written while in Rome (each 30%). Class participation and proper social behavior is worth the additional 30%.
CLASS SCHEDULE [subject to change]:

On-Campus classes:
- Hour #1-2: Pre-Roman Italy and the Roman Republic
- Hour #3-4: The Civil Wars and the Roman Empire
- Hour #5-6: Roman Art and Architecture – Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque
- Hour #7: Exam

Rome classes:
- Mon. Dec. 29: Departure from Chicago
- Wed. Dec. 31: Pre-Roman Etruscans: Villa Giulia; Cerveteri
  Readings: Etruscan Civilization (1-8); Sybille Haynes, Etruscan Civilization (9-14);
  John F. Hall, Etruscan Italy: Etruscan Influences (15-20); “The Early Peoples of Italy” (21-26); Livy, History of Rome (27-32)
- Thur. Jan. 1: Paper #1
- Fri. Jan. 2: Coalescence of Italic Peoples: Baths of Diocletian; Servian Wall
  Readings: Mary T. Boatwright, “Rome and the Latins” (33-39); Boatwright, “Rome and Italy in the Forth Century” (40-44)
- Sat. Jan. 3: Expansion into Greece, Asia Minor, Spain, & Carthage: Palazzo Massimo
  Readings: Boatwright, “The Beginnings of a Mediterranean Empire” (45-53); MAP OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (54); Boatwright, “Italy and the Consequences of Empire” (55-61); Cato the Elder (62)
  Readings: Christopher Mackay, “Caesar and the End of Republican Government” (63-70); Richard Beacham, “Playing for Power” (71-90); The Roman Triumph (91-92)
  Readings: Lewis & Reinhold, Roman Civilization Sourcebook: “The Roman Peace” (115-130); Boatwright, “Cities and Provinces” (131-136)
  Readings: Augustus, Res Gestae (93-100)
- Wed. Jan. 7: The Julio-Claudians & Flavians: Domus Aurea [?], Palatine, Colosseum, Circus Maximus,
  Readings: Suetonius, Lives of the Caesars—Nero (101-114)
- Thur. Jan. 8: The Pax Romana: Hadrian’s Villa
  Readings: Marcus Aurelius, Meditations (137-144)
- Fri. Jan. 9: Barbarian Incursions and the Fall of Rome: Ostia
  Readings: Mathisen, “Prergrini, Barbari, and Cives Romani” (171-175); MAP OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE (176)
- Sat. Jan. 10: Mithraism & Christianity: Catacombs, Lateran, San Clemente
  Readings: Arendzen, “Mithraism” (145-147); The Churches of Rome (148);
  Boatwright, “Rome and Christianity” (149-152); Kessler, “The Papal Precinct at the Lateran” (153-160); Kessler, “San Clemente” (161-170)
- Sun. Jan. 11: Italian City-States and the Papacy: Vatican Museums; Discussion; Paper #2
  Readings: William La Due, The Chair of Saint Peter “The Pope Turns to the West” (177-186); “Global City
- Mon. Jan. 12: Return to Chicago