When walking around Rome, you can not but become aware of its past, of the impact that history has had upon the city: everywhere are remains of ancient buildings, medieval houses and churches, renaissance and baroque *palazzi* and more. Sometimes they are right next to each other, other times they are on top of each other or mixed together into a collage of different materials and techniques. After all this city that extends along the Tiber, across the low lands on to the surrounding hills has existed for almost 3000 years, a continuous urban *work in progress*. Centuries of construction and restoration, destruction and transformation have created one of the most intricate layered city centers of the world.

This course intends to peel off the layers one by one to reconstruct the history of Rome within the Aurelian walls from its origins to the late Middle Ages, when a cityscape was created that became the base for the later development of the city from the Renaissance until the modern age. During this almost surgical removal of the layers of the city, we will pay attention to the development, use and continuity of the urban infrastructure (the streets, bridges, aqueducts and walls), the building typology (both public and private), the building materials and techniques.
A central theme in this course will be the emphasis upon the concept of continuity through transformation of the urban fabric from antiquity until the present day. At the base of this concept is the way a historical city continuously recycles itself. It does that in its spaces, open or closed, public or private, and in the materials and methods of construction. To understand this process we will look at the well preserved remains of the ancient and medieval city and combine them with the latest results in urban archaeology in order to gain better insight in the dynamics of the city as an ever changing living organism. Therefore, the course will also dedicate some time to the most important urban interventions that occurred in Rome after it was proclaimed Capital of Italy in 1870 and the way these projects interfered with its historical urban texture.

Every week one or two different "regions" will be studied, that cover a specific moment of the urban history of Rome. Each time the urban and architectural elements of the ancient and medieval phase will be analyzed, contextualized and interpreted in the light of what has been said before. Week after week, the layers of the city will be put in place and the complex urban history of the city reconstructed.

Course objectives.
- To unravel the “layers of Rome” by using the material evidence available for the study of city’s architectural and urban history and implementing it with other sources (e.g. literary, epigraphical, etc.).
- To gain thorough and direct knowledge of the Roman and Medieval urban landscape and the way this landscape has survived until today.
- To understand how the development of Modern Rome can not be separated from that of its ancient and medieval legacy.

Learning objectives.
- To “see” the different phases of the city through its building typology, building materials and building techniques;
- To interpret the specific nature of urban development in a certain part of the city at a certain time against the background of changing political, religious, economic or social standards.
- To understand the complexity of a historical city and the problems it creates for the management of its urban landscape in a contemporary environment.

Course schedule.

WEEK 1.

Introduction: Rome's Romes.
Means and tools for a better reading of the Eternal city: a look at the sources.
A. Archaic Rome (10th-6th cent. BC).
The landscape of Rome and some traces of its earliest history between the Capitoline and Palatine hill: the Forum Boarium and the Forum Holitorium. Visit to the Capitoline Museum.
Meet at the palazzo.

WEEK 2.

B. Republican and Imperial Rome (5th cent. BC-4th cent. AD).
1. The Roman Forum, the Palatine hill and the idea of the “passeggiata archeologica”.

WEEK 3.
2. The Field of Mars from the Republican to the Imperial age.
From the theatre of Marcellus to the Pantheon and the sundial of Augustus.

Visit to *Herculaneum* (mandatory)
Details tba.

WEEK 4.
Mini break. No class.

WEEK 5
Northern trip. No class.

WEEK 6.
3. The Esquiline hill: of walls, aqueducts, gardens and its recent transformation into Rome’s most multicultural neighbourhood within the walls.
From the Porta Maggiore, the *Porta Tiburtina*, the *Trofei di Mario* to the *Porta Esquilina*.


WEEK 7.
4. The harbour(s) of Rome.
Visit to the Forum Boarium, Testaccio (and surroundings) and the first examples of social housing in modern Rome.

Reading: Coulston, Dodge, Ch. 7. *The Feeding of imperial Rome: the mechanics of the food supply system*, p. 142-165. (David Mattingly and Greg Aldrete)

WEEK 8
The Christianization of the urban landscape and the development of early Christian architecture in Rome and Milan.
Northern trip. No class.

WEEK 9
C. Late antique and early Christian Rome. (4th-6th Cent. AD)
1. The baths of Diocletian and s. Paul outside the walls: imperial patronage in the late antique and early Christian city and the urban interventions of *Roma Capitale*.


WEEK 10.
Break. No class.

**WEEK 11.**

2. The Caelian and Aventine hill between aristocratic residences and private church foundations. 
Visit to the painted houses under SS. John and Paul, Sto. Stefano Rotondo and sta. Sabina; aspects of the transformation of the Caelian hill in modern times.

**WEEK 12.**

D. Early Medieval Rome (6th -10th cent. AD)
1. Visit to the Crypta Balbi museum. Methodology of medieval archaeology and the adaptation of an urban archaeology project into a museum space. The Roman Forum and the Imperial Fora in the Middle Ages.


**WEEK 13.**

2. St. John in Lateran, sta. Maria Maggiore and the *disabitato*.


**WEEK 14.** *papers due by the beginning of class!!!*

E. Rome in the High Middle Ages (10th-12th cent. AD).
Of fragmentation, reuse and the law of the shortcut; of medieval houses and towers; of the construction of the Lungotevere and the creation of Corso Vittorio Emanuele.
1. St. Peter and the Vatican between past and present. The *via papalis*.

2. The urban image of medieval Rome and the taming of the Tiber in the modern age.

**WEEK 15**

no class.

**WEEK 17.**

*Final examination (9.30-12)*
Assessment tools.

Paper.
The paper topic will be discussed at the beginning of the semester. The paper must be 10-12 pages long, double spaced and include footnotes (not in-text notes). It must also have a bibliography and illustrations (drawings, photographs, etc.). The paper must be handed in as a hard copy as well as being transmitted electronically to the instructor. The paper is due by the beginning of class.

Final Exam.
The final exam will be based upon the class notes, readings and other information that the students have received during the lectures and site visits. The exam will ask for short and long answers, analysis and discussion of building plans, explanation of technical terminology, insight in the synchronical as well as diachronical aspects of the urban history of Rome, etc.

Grading and grading scale.
Attendance and Participation 15%
Paper 35%
Final exam 50%

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Academic Integrity: Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Please refer to the link below or speak with me concerning any questions: [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html)

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work, except in the cases of projects that are specifically structured as group endeavors. You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lectures with other students. You can give “consulting” help to or receive “consulting” help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made
during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

**Recommended readings.**

Note: there is no textbook for this course. In a way, the city of Rome is our (free) unique textbook that offers the images on a scale of 1:1 and in 3D.


**Bibliography** (the titles listed above in the recommended readings have not been included)


*Atlante di Roma*


