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Roma Eterna

[Classes](#) | [Fees](#) | [Application](#) | [Contact](#)**Rome, Italy - Winter 2012****Dates of Instruction:** December 29, 2011 - March 9, 2012**Application Deadline:** June 1, 2011**Sponsored by:** The **Comparative History of Ideas**

Program Description

The CHID Winter Rome Program offers two courses that focus intensively on the history and topography of Rome to take full advantage of Rome's unique character as an historical and urban palimpsest with multiple layers of development that transcend but include the preceding ages in an intertextual dialogue across time. The Roma Eterna course considers the historical periods of Rome as distinct "foreign" cultures that help to bring into relief the temporary and contingent character of American, and more broadly, contemporary culture and society. Rome is one of the richest sites in the world for exploring the full span of human development from the iron age hill settlements of its foundations through the Fascist appropriation of the symbols of imperial power and the attempts by contemporary Rome to assert itself as an international center of the arts through the recent inauguration of the MAXXI museum of modern art of the 21st century. The course on the Urban Structures of Rome explores in a parallel way the complex urban environment of Rome to consider how cities come to define themselves through an historical, aesthetic, and socio-economic process. Students will work with maps that reveal the evolution of Rome's urban spaces in various dimensions by first examining its ancient and imperial foundations, and then they will study in more detail the municipal districts or "rione" of Rome to engage very closely in the fashioning of urban space in all its dimensions, streets, bridges, aqueducts, monuments, piazzas, etc. These courses are intended to serve the CHID program's focus on critical consciousness through an intensified, comparative approach to historical phenomenology, and to the aesthetic structuring of urban space along with its social, cultural consequences.

The site of Rome is ideally suited to the course objectives because the historical center of Rome provides in very close proximity the convergence of multiple historical layers that allow for an ongoing comparative analysis. We will take full advantage of Rome's unique historical character through site visits four times a week linked to textual guides on the historical periods and the structural evolution of Rome.

Curriculum:

ROMA ETERNA - CHID 442 (5 CREDITS)

Rome, established in 753 B.C., is one of the oldest continuously inhabited urban environments in the world. It has survived through various transformations for almost 3,000 years. Besides being a popular tourist destination because of its many celebrated attractions such as the Colosseum, it constitutes a complex living museum of human cultural enterprise in which several layers of historical development can be explored in one site. As a result, Rome provides a unique setting for examining the various ways in which human communities create a sense of meaning and order through their ongoing reappropriation of the past. The focus of this course will be on a comparative analysis of the way in which Rome has been modified over time to reflect different conceptions of human identity and community. An inquiry into the cultural legacy of Rome will begin with its ancient and imperial foundations. The course will then consider later historical periods of Rome such as the Medieval, Renaissance, the Baroque, Fascist and Contemporary Rome. An analysis of Rome's legacy as the eternal city will be pursued through selected readings linked to specific site visits in and around the historical center of the city.

ROME AS A PALIMPSEST - CHID 471 A (5 CREDITS)

The city of Rome is sometimes referred to as a "palimpsest." The word "palimpsest" is Greek (palin "again" + psao "scrape"). It means literally "scraped clean and used again." Typically it refers to old manuscripts from scrolls or books from which the text was scraped off many times in order to be written over again. For over two millennia the land of this ancient city has been scraped off and "written over" with artifacts that make for a complex topography and communicate stories at multiple levels still being deciphered today. In this course the students are invited to explore the parts that constitute the topography of Rome as a hidden urban environment

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of multiple historical layers comprised of piazzas, streets, buildings, monuments, fortifications, aqueducts, parks, public and private spaces. While examining these spaces in their actuality, we reflect on what they replace and/or hide underneath: a temple, a forum, a road, a city, an aqueduct etc. Using the senses as gateway for knowledge, maps, camera and pen as means to witness, design and record, we are invited to create our own image of Rome through the recognition of the physical form of Rome revealed by maps from its origins to now. The course is structured to guide our senses toward an awareness of the relation between past, present and future in order to consider the relationship between memory, lived experience, and imagination. The final objective is to assemble a portfolio that organizes personal and analytical explorations of the image of Rome. The goal of this experience is to form a mental x-ray of the city of Rome, in other words, to make one see what is concealed and to inspire one to conceive change and continuity of people and culture through visualization of history, time and space.

GENERAL ORIENTATION TO ROME - CHID 471 B (2 CREDITS)

The two-credit General Orientation course deals with a general orientation to Rome and Italy as study sites with guidance for helping students to understand how to interact with Italians in a manner that is respectful to the culture, and a broad sense of the social and cultural character of contemporary Italy.

OPTIONAL INDEPENDENT STUDY - CHID 471 C (3 CREDITS)

The CHID Winter Rome program also encourages students to consider an optional three-credit foundational Italian language course taught by a former instructor from Italian Studies who currently resides in Rome. Students meet twice a week for hourly intensive language instruction that can serve to facilitate their close engagement in the experience of Italian culture and society. This course can assist students in feeling more confident in interacting with locals as part of their exploration of the study site of Rome.

Alternatively students have the option of considering a three-credit independent study project on some aspect of the history and culture of Rome. This project allows students to take up a particular historical site in Rome for closer analysis guided by research materials available through the Rome Center library. Aspects of the architecture, monuments, churches, piazzas, fountains, bridges and other sites in Rome can be used as a way to inquire into the rich historical legacy of Rome as a living museum of human social development. Students will work in consultation with the instructor to develop a project proposal culminating in a 6-8 page paper.

Note: We recommend that you check with your academic advisor to see how these courses can count toward your departmental requirements.

Cost Details:

The program fee is \$7,750.

Please see our [Fees, Financing and Withdrawal](#) page for more detailed payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

| Payment Type | Payment Amount | Payment Due Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Non-Refundable Program Deposit | \$350 | Charged Upon Receipt of Contract |
| Non-Refundable IPE Fee | \$250 | 1/20/2012 |
| Program Fee Balance | \$7,400 | 1/20/2012 |
| TOTAL FEES CHARGED | \$8,000 | - |

Total Cost:

\$8000

Eligibility:

Students from all areas of study are encouraged to apply. CHID welcomes students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Application URL:

[Click here for the Study Abroad Office webpage with a link to the program application.](#)

Questions:

Contact chidint@uw.edu

or

Dr. Douglass Merrell, program director