

## IATL Pedagogic Intervention Grant

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### Contextualising the Eternal City: an academic field trip to Rome for participants in the City of Rome module. March 20-24<sup>th</sup> 2014

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The IATL Pedagogic Intervention Grant allowed the Classics department to offer a field trip component for 15 student participant and one graduate student as part of the City of Rome (CX 303) module. When studying the history, archaeology and geography of the ancient city, there is simply no substitute for a “hands on” experience in the city and with its incredible collection of materials. Although not all students could participate (the course had 46 students), we used this opportunity, not only to visit sites, but to find ways to teach the whole class about the city, through powerpoints, photographs and video presentations which the students made on site in Rome and in Ostia. These video “case studies” ranged from famous buildings such as the Pantheon or the Colosseum in Rome, to market stall for fish sauce stall or a laundrerers at Ostia. This experience not only encouraged study and group dynamic, but allowed the students to consider and learn how to present this type of material through a visual medium. A sample video and accompanying powerpoint presentation have been provided. A selection of these are published on the City of Rome Module Website. These “case study” videos and power point presentations are currently being used by all the students in the course for exam revision.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/students/modules/rome/powerpoints>

By basing the trip at the British School At Rome, we also had a chance to introduce the students to a world reknown British institution and the resources it offers, as well as to meet the current researcher and scholars based there, as we dined with these individuals on two of the nights we were there, and the director Prof. Chris Smith welcomed us very warmly, as well as our guest speakers: Rachel Mascetta, a former Classics Fulbright scholar who now works for the US Ambassador in Rome and a professor of Roman Archaeology associated with the American Academy, Rebecca Ammerman. The British school at Rome also offers an amazing service in attaining permits for free or reduced entry to the Rome’s many sites and museum, as well as securing us special permits to visit sites such as the Horologium of Augustus, the Tomb of the Scipios, the Pyramid of Cestius, and Temples at Largo Argentina, which are not open to the general public (these are labeled on the itinerary below). On our one evening dining out, we ate at a restaurant set inside archways of Pompey’s Theatre.

Throughout these visits, the students also experiences the different ways in which ancient sites are presented, in museums, in context, with original versions and reproductions of materials. Having to don hard hats and hair nets at cavernous sites such as the tomb of the Scipios or the climb down stories of dilapidated buildings to view an ancient bronze inscription in marble, the remains under the water table, allowed them the observed the physical practicalities of archaeology and the numerous levels of history a city such as Rome can have. To examine practical techniques, we also made rubbings of a series of statue bases from the House of the Vigiles (often known as the fire brigade) in Ostia. Where the students got to touch the stones and make copies of the inscriptions to bring home to their classmates. One of these has been framed and will be hung up in the Classics department.

## City of Rome Field Trip Itinerary

\* A 2<sup>nd</sup> powerpoint images from our site visits has also been included.

### Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup>

1.15 Arrive @ the British School at Rome

2.30 pm Forum Romanum (**Reduced Entry**)

4.00pm Largo Argentina: Republican Temples (**Permit**)

Triumphal Walk (sites visited): Porticus Octavia, Temple of Apollo Sosianus, Theatre of Marcus, Forum Holitorium Temple, Forum Boarium, Temples of Portunus and Hercules Victor, Cloaca Maxima and the Circus Maximus.

7pm Reception & Dinner @ BSR with Prof Rebecca Ammerman (Colgate University)

### Friday March 21st, Life & Death in Rome

9.30 AM Tour of Via Appia. Tomb of Caecilla Metella

10.30 Tour of the Catacombs of St. Sebastiano (**Reduced entry**)

2.10 PM Colosseum & Arch of Constantine: (**Permit**)

3.45 Baths of Caracalla (**Free entry**)

5pm Tomb of the Scipios (**Permit**)

8pm: Dinner @ BSR

### Sat. March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Roads, Ports and Hinterland

9.30 am Pyramid of Cestius (**Permit**)

11 am Ostia: (**Free Entry**)

5pm Capitoline Museum/ Casa D'Aracoeli (**Free Entry**)

8pm: Stadium of Domitian /Piazza Navona:

Dinner @ Theater of Pompey

### Sunday March 23rd: The Campus Martius

9am Horologium (**Permit**)

10am Ara Pacis Museum (**Free Entry**)Pantheon/ Column of Marcus Aurelius

2.30 pm Epigraphy Museum (**Free Entry**)

This itinerary only records the major sites visited, the actual experience of walking around Rome afforded countless more ancient sites and objects, as well as a much better sense of the urban topography in which the city was set.

## IATL Pedagogic Objectives Achieved

- Site visits promoted the concept of ‘Student as Researcher’, by offering direct interaction with the archaeological evidence. By allowing the student to use her senses and her analytical skills in relation to the archaeological evidence in its original context, the site visits helped participants develop intellectual and personal confidence as well as a greater understanding of the analytical process.
- Students worked together to create and design a didactic tool for their classmates and continued their research after their visit in the powerpoint presentations.
- Students developed personally by giving direct experience of preparation, summary and verbal presentation of complex concepts to a wide audience, skills which transcend the academic sphere.
- Students experienced and interacted with numerous resources, research techniques, and individuals at an international academic institution.
- Students learned to contextualise two terms of scholarship within a real urban and social context, broadening their cultural awareness of Rome as a city.

During our stay at the British School in Rome, the students witnessed the value of collaboration between different scholars at Rome, and between the University of Warwick and the British School at Rome. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Director Prof. Chris Smith, the Residence Manager Christine, and the Secretary who graciously attained all our permits, Stefania Peterlini. The memberships fees that this grant supported (50 pounds for each Student) are good for an entire year, and some students from the field trip (and others from the City of Rome module) have already applied to the British School at Rome, on one of their residential courses or for independent research, creating further links between Warwick University and the prestigious institution of the British School at Rome.