

# WRITING ROME

## TRAVEL SEMINAR TO ROME, ITALY

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES



**“Writing Rome”** (TX 200B) is a one-credit travel seminar that will introduce students to interdisciplinary perspectives on Rome.

“All roads lead to Rome.” This maxim guides our study tour of the Eternal City. In “Writing Rome” students will travel to Rome and compare the city constructed in texts with the city constructed of brick, concrete, marble, wood, and metal. This travel seminar will offer tours of the major ancient sites (including the Fora, the Palatine, the Colosseum, the Pantheon), as well as the Vatican, the major museums, houses of worship, Fascist monuments, the Jewish quarter and other locales with the historical religious, and cultural layering that is the city’s hallmark. In addition, students will keep travel journals and produce a culminating essay (or other written work) about their experiences on the tour, thereby continuing the tradition of writing Rome.

## WHY ROME?

Rome is the Eternal City, a cradle of western culture, and the root of the English word “romance.” Founded on April 21, 753 BCE (or so tradition tells us), the city was the heart of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire, and today serves as the capital of Italy.

Bustling, dense, layered, and sublime, Rome has withstood tyrants, invasions, disasters, and the ravages of the centuries. The Roman story is the story of civilization itself, with chapters written by citizens and foreigners alike. Now *you* are the author.



## COURSE SCHEDULE

"Reading Rome," the 3-credit lecture and discussion-based course, will be taught on the Skidmore College campus during the spring 2015 semester. The instructors, in conjunction with OCSE, will schedule meetings in spring 2015 to discuss the academic expectations, logistics and code of conduct for "Writing Rome" (TX 200B).

### PRELIMINARY TRAVEL SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*

- MAY**
- 17 (Sun.) Evening: Flight from NYC-area airport to Rome
  - 18 (Mon.) Morning: Arrival in Rome, settling in  
Evening: Walk through Trastevere to the Janiculum Hill  
Welcome dinner
  - 19 (Tue.) Morning: The Capitoline Hill  
Afternoon: The Forum Romanum
  - 20 (Wed.) Morning: Capitoline Museums  
Afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 21 (Thu.) Morning: The Imperial Fora, the Colosseum  
Afternoon: Churches: San Pietro in Vincoli, San Clemente, St. John Lateran
  - 22 (Fri.) Morning: The Palatine Hill  
Afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 23 (Sat.) Morning: Galleria Borghese, Piazza del Popolo  
Afternoon: Campus Martius North (Spanish Steps, Ara Pacis)
  - 24 (Sun.) Morning: Museo Ebraico, Synagogue of Rome, tour of the Jewish quarter  
Afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 25 (Mon.) Morning: Campus Martius South (Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain)  
Afternoon: Vatican Necropolis
  - 26 (Tue.) Morning and afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 27 (Wed.) Morning: St Peter's Basilica  
Afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 28 (Thu.) Morning: The Aventine Hill  
Afternoon: Porta San Paolo, Pyramid of Gaius Sestius, Protestant cemetery
  - 29 (Fri.) Morning: Esposizione Universale Roma (EUR) and the Museum of Roman Civilization  
Afternoon: Solo excursions
  - 30 (Sat.) Morning: The Baths of Caracalla  
Afternoon: Appian Way and the Christian catacombs
  - 31 (Sun.) Day trip to Ostia Antica (ancient harbor of Rome) and the Italian coast
- JUNE**
- 1 (Mon.) Morning and afternoon: The Vatican Museums
  - 2 (Tue.) Republic Day in Italy  
Morning: Parade on the Via dei Fori Imperiali  
Afternoon: Solo excursions  
Evening: Farewell dinner
  - 3 (Wed.) Morning: Flight from Rome to NYC-area airport





## FACULTY DIRECTORS

**Dan Curley**, Associate Professor of Classics. Professor Curley specializes in the literature of Rome, especially poetry of the late Republic and early Empire. He is the author of *Tragedy in Ovid* (Cambridge 2013), a study of tragic theatricality in Ovid's erotic and epic poetry. His current research project is a book-length study of classical myth on film for Wiley-Blackwell.



**Gregory Spinner**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion. Professor Spinner was trained as a comparative historian of religions at the University of Chicago, specializing in biblical, para-biblical, and post-biblical literatures. He teaches courses on the histories of Judaism and Christianity, as well as on myth, ritual, and critical theories of religion. Recently, he has been working on the comics medium, co-curating the Tang Museum exhibit *Graphic Jews: Negotiating Identity in Sequential Art*.



## COSTS

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Rome is \$3,950 (subject to fluctuation). This includes Skidmore tuition, round-trip airfare from a NYC-area airport to Rome, ground transportation for program excursions, on-site accommodations (generally double occupancy), 2 meals per day, international medical insurance, entrance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of OCSE. The fee does not include transportation to and from New York City, passport and visa costs, nor personal expenses.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to enroll in the "Writing Rome" Travel Seminar (TX 200B 001) must also enroll in "Reading Rome" (CC 265) offered in the spring 2015 semester.

## TO APPLY

Please apply by: **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2014**

Applications are available on the OCSE Web site at [www.skidmore.edu/ocse](http://www.skidmore.edu/ocse).

All applicants are required to submit a \$250 nonrefundable deposit at the time of application to hold their space on the program (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to the program fee.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details about cost and travel logistics,  
please contact:

**LISA HOBBS**

**FINANCE/PROGRAM MANAGER**

Off-Campus Study & Exchanges

Starbuck 202

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For details about course content and  
academic requirements, please contact:

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For details on available financial aid,  
please contact:

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OCSE 2015

Creative Thought Matters

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