

Humanities Seminar: Walks in Rome

September 27-October 25, 2018

Thursdays 9-12

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Readings:

For each session, there will be sections recommended from the books in the Recommended Reading list below. These will provide useful background for sites and discussions. In addition, there will be required readings from various “grand tour/-ist” sources. These will be posted as PDFs to Box@UA, and all registered students will receive the link closer to the beginning of the course for full access. The Henry James novella, *Daisy Miller*, and Edith Wharton’s *Roman Fever* (listed below) are essential texts for our discussion of the Colosseum, on September 27.

Required Reading:

Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (1979): Any text (on-line or hard copy) is fine.

Edith Wharton, *Roman Fever* (1934): Any text (on-line or hard copy) is fine.

Recommended Reading:

R. Taylor, K. Wentworth Rinne, and S. Kostof, *Rome A Urban History from Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

For several of our discussions, this book will provide useful background.

Georgina Masson, *The Companion Guide to Rome* (New York, 1983).

For each of our walks, Masson will have delightful literary background.

Augustus J. C. Hare, *Walks in Rome* (London, 1913).

An old “guidebook” with personal (controversial) comments upon sites.

Meetings and Topics



September 27

A walk through the Roman Forum and Colosseum, with Christian sites along the way and among the ancient ruins.



October 4

The Capitoline complex, from antiquity through Michelangelo's transformations and the 'talking statue of Marforio.' (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rWC_5YastU)



October 11

The Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica—the melding of Christian and classical in the Grand Tour. A long walk through museum and basilica highlights with their background stories that invite us into Renaissance Rome.



October 18

The places and works of Bernini and Borromini. A winding walk that takes us to hidden chapels, piazzas, churches, villas, palazzos, and towers to discover Baroque Rome. (Enjoy this wonderful, four-part Simon Shama film about Bernini in advance of our meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wet-VF2bDCA&list=PLB93AEBD96244E2E5>)



October 25 Secrets of Rome

A walk from the Aventine to Trastevere with excursions to visit some of the best and least known *Roma arcana*, accompanied by a viewing of *La Grande Bellezza*'s 'secrets of Rome.'

