

## SU22 AP/HIST 3140 3.0M The City in the Roman World

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### Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

It should come as no surprise that many of the major cities in Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa - territories that encircle the Mediterranean Sea - can be traced back to Roman urban settlements. Furthermore, a quick glance at a map of the Roman world reveals the high degree of urbanization experienced in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE. The question we should be asking then is why the Romans were so interested in this process of urbanization. What was it about cities and city-living that prompted the Romans to promote urban centres throughout the Mediterranean? And conversely, what effects did urbanization have on Roman society? To address these issues, we will be examining the nature of the Roman city from a variety of different perspectives: the historical development of cities; the physical composition of a Roman city; the maintenance and upkeep of an ancient city; the perils and delights of urban dwelling; the benefits that urbanization afforded, both at the local levels, as well as at the imperial level; and the limits of the urbanization model. We will begin with a close analysis of the city of Rome itself, since it set the standard for many of the cities around the Empire. Then, we will explore what urbanization entailed for the rest of the Roman world. Finally, we will focus on case studies of specific cities located around the Roman Empire. In pursuing these themes and topics, we will be engaging with a wide range of primary sources, including literary, epigraphic and archaeological, along with consideration of scholarly literature on the topic.

### Required Course Text/Readings:

**\*TENTATIVE\***

Aldrete, Gregory S. (2009). *Daily Life in the Roman City: Rome, Pompeii, and Ostia*. University of Oklahoma Press. 0806140275

### Weighting of Course:

**\*TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown\***

Article Review: 15%

Written Assignment: 15%

Major Paper: 30%

Final Examination: 30% (August examination period)

Participation: 10%