

2021 CLASSICAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Guidelines

Rome began as a cluster of Iron Age huts on a hill overlooking the Tiber River. This tiny settlement eventually grew to become the capital of an empire that stretched across the entire Mediterranean basin. The city's development reflects its long and complex relationships with the other peoples of the Italian peninsula, in particular, the Etruscans and Greeks, as well as multiple influences from individuals and groups who came to the city as slaves, merchants, or immigrants. Continuously inhabited since its foundation, the city has been frequently rebuilt, with layer rising upon layer. This course aims to provide participants with a deep understanding of Ancient Rome as an urban setting (from the Etruscan/Early Roman period through Late Antiquity) through close attention to sources and evidence for ancient topography, art and architecture, as well as the reconstruction of diverse identity experiences in the ancient city.

2021 Program Dates

June 28 - July 30, 2021

2021 Application Deadline

December 15, 2020

Notification of acceptance into the program by January 2021; scholarships awarded by March 2021.

2021 Director

Sanjaya Thakur, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Classics, Colorado College

The Course

The program of the Classical Summer School focuses on the development of the ancient city of Rome from its earliest settlement through later antiquity. An introduction to the material culture and urban topography of the city forms the core of the course. A foundational goal of the course is to develop participants' skills in analyzing and interpreting archaeological sites and artifacts. Along with examining the better-known monuments, such as the Pantheon, Forum Romanum and Imperial Fora, the program explores the hidden parts of the ancient city, behind locked gates and below its modern streets. Visits to important Latin and Etruscan sites – such as Veii, Alba Fucens, Tarquinia, Palestrina, Sperlonga, Terracina, Ostia, and Tivoli – will complement daily fieldtrips within the city. From this series of visits to sites and museums during the six-week program, participants will develop an intimate knowledge of the city and its ancient monuments. Classroom and on-site lectures will relate the material of the course to its historical and social contexts. The development of architecture, sculpture, painting, the 'minor' arts, and inscriptions of the republican and imperial city will also be presented. Readings from primary texts and modern scholarship will be assigned to contextualize monuments and the urban experience of the ancient city. In addition, participants are encouraged to present on a monument or aspect of ancient Roman topography, literature, history, art/architecture or pedagogy of interest to them or relevant to their own research.

Students enrolled in the Classical Summer School are an integral part of the intellectual community of the American Academy in Rome. Seminars on material culture and special guest lectures will provide opportunities for CSS students to interact with the AAR fellows and other visiting scholars and experts in all aspects of Roman antiquity. Program participants will also have full access to the Arthur & Janet C. Ross Library of the American Academy, where there are excellent resources on the history, topography, and archaeology of the city of Rome, and to the Archaeological Study Collection.

2021 Classical Summer School

The annual Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome will be under the direction of Professor Sanjaya Thakur. The 5-week session will begin on Monday June 28, 2021 and conclude with a final dinner on the night of Thursday July 29, 2021. Participants must plan to arrive in Rome by mid-day on Monday, June 28 for an afternoon orientation and depart Rome no earlier than the morning of Friday, July 30, 2021. If you cannot be in Rome for that entire period, please consider applying another year.

The course generally runs Monday-Friday, with a few Saturday excursions. There will be a long weekend break (3 days) midway through the program.

Admission

Enrollment is normally composed of Latin teachers and graduate students in classical fields, ideally in a 50-50 ratio. Occasional applicants of professorial (four and two year institutions are welcome) or undergraduate rank in classical studies will receive serious consideration. If the number of applicants is exceptionally high, preference will be given to those teachers and graduate students who have the MA in hand. **All applications for admission must be received by 11:59 pm EST December 15, 2020.**

Important

Please be aware that the Classical Summer School is conducted largely on site in and around Rome. Thus, full participation in the program generally requires physical exertion due to long, fairly strenuous walks and occasional, steep climbs; standing in hot sun at archaeological sites; and standing for prolonged periods of time in museums. The months of June and July are quite hot in Rome, with temperatures often in the 90s and occasionally reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Please note that applicants who had been accepted for the cancelled 2020 program will be given priority for the 2021 CSS.

Scholarships for 2021

Several scholarships are awarded by the American Academy in Rome upon recommendation of the Classical Summer School Director and scholarship committee. These do not require a separate application. There is a section on the application where applicants can indicate a preference to be considered for these awards.

Numerous local classical organizations support study at the American Academy in Rome. Here is a sampling of some of the local associations offering scholarships (consult their websites for details):

- The Society for Classical Studies
- The American Classical League
- Classical Association of the Atlantic States
- Classical Association of the Empire State
- Classical Association of New England
- Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest
- New York Classical Club
- Ohio Classical Conference
- Texas Classical Association
- Eta Sigma Phi national honor society
- Classical Association of the Middle West and South

Check with your local classical association, school, or department for other opportunities.

The applicant is solely responsible for finding and applying for financial aid. Every applicant must submit a full Classical Summer School application to the Director, by December 15, 2020, regardless of any scholarships or other awards being sought.

Passport

If you do not already have a valid passport, get one immediately. The process can be time-consuming, and you do not want to leave this to the last minute.

Program Costs

The program fee of \$4,500 includes tuition, accommodation at the Academy, a minimum of 5 dinners per week at AAR or a local restaurant (COVID restrictions permitting) and the cost of trips to sites in and around Rome. Program fee must be paid in full to the Academy's office in New York by May 1, 2021.

The program fee does not include airfare, personal expenses (and additional, unplanned expenditures), breakfasts, any travel not directly related to the program of the Summer School, nor expenses such as laundry, tips, amusements, or shopping.

There may be fees for a passport application and you may have to forward some documents to Rome if you are accepted. Italian ATM machines are plentiful and work with most American credit and debit cards. Credit cards, as well as debit cards that also function as credit cards, are taken almost everywhere in Italy these days, including supermarkets.

Accommodation in Rome

Students of the Classical Summer School will stay at the American Academy. The program cannot accommodate guests other than participants. Accommodation is only available between the program dates of June 28 (arrival) and July 30 (departure). It is not possible to pay for additional days. Please plan to arrive by mid-day on June 28 for an orientation at the American Academy at 4 pm. Departure should take place no earlier than Friday, July 30.

Application

The Classical Summer School has an [online application](#) process. The deadline for all application materials is December 15, 2020. You may also direct specific questions about the program, accommodations, or other matters involving the Classical Summer School to Prof. Thakur at cssdirector@aarome.org. For more general questions about the American Academy, email info@aarome.org.

Good luck!