

**ARCH 407: ROME, CITY OF VISIBLE HISTORY**  
**SPRING 2021 T/Th 11am-12:20pm**  
**Synchronous, Online Lecture/Discussion**  
**Prof. Heather Grossman**



Rome has been called the Eternal City, and also “the city of visible history.” While primarily associated in popular imagination with its ancient past, Rome is a vital, changing, and challenging contemporary city. One of Europe’s centers of design and culture, Rome has recently seen projects by architects such as Renzo Piano, Zaha Hadid, and Richard Meier, among others, as well as significant immigrant communities making their homes in Italy’s capital.

This course considers the city of Rome from its foundation until today, using critical strategies for understanding urban environments as well as individual monuments. Rome’s many layers allow for the study of multiple periods and styles of architecture (and how those intersect) within a single urban fabric, and the effects of politics, economics, religion, culture and societal change upon architecture and vice versa. We will look at this history of Roman urbanism and architecture with the aid of a variety of evidentiary materials: individual monuments, maps, photographs, prints, primary texts, and films. We will emphasize critical histories of the city, analyzing why differing architectural monuments and ensembles were created and how they have affected the lives of Romans over time.

3hrs; sophomore standing required, architecture students should already have taken ARCH 210 before enrolling in this course. Students from Art History, Art and Design, Classics, History, and other disciplines are welcome!