

The University of Florida, School of Art + Art History  
Spring Semester 2015  
**ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians**

Prof. Ashley Jones

Office Hours Tuesdays 12:00-1:55 p.m. and tba FAC 119B, and by appointment  
Monday 10:40-11:30, Wednesday 9:35-11:30, FAC 201

**Course Description:**

This class will involve critical examination of Roman depictions of Barbarians, in text and image, from the time of Julius Caesar through Late Antiquity. In seeking to complicate traditional center/periphery and insider/outsider dichotomies, it will also consider Barbarian depictions of Romans, such as the imitation gold coins and medallions created by Germanic goldsmiths, and the famous victory reliefs of Sasanian King Shapur I. We will primarily be looking at monumental sculpture, but we will also examine coins, medals, and jewelry objects, with particular attention to questions of dress and the representation of dress as a semantic field.

**Course Objectives:**

- To learn to recognize and identify the common barbarian “types” of classical art.
- To learn to recognize and identify barbarian or “barbarized” depictions of Roman individuals and types.
- To critically identify and describe characteristics used to signal a subject’s foreign identity by Greek and Roman artists.
- To critically identify and describe stylistic and technical characteristics used by art historians to describe and define Greek/Roman and “barbarian” art.
- To relate visual depictions of non-Romans to primary written sources, such as Caesar’s *Gallic Wars*, and to ancient knowledge of geography and of foreign peoples.
- To relate Greek and Roman depictions of foreigners, and foreign depictions of Romans, to historical events.

**Requirements:**

- Attendance and Participation **15%**
- 4 Reading/Lecture Response Papers **10% each = 40%**
- 1 Museum Assignment **10%**
- Final Paper or Project **35%**

**Graduate Requirements:**

In addition to the general requirements, students taking the course for graduate credit (ARH 6917) must complete the following requirements:

- Additional readings, as assigned
- Attendance and participation at graduate discussion sections (included in above 20%)
- Oral presentation of final paper to graduate section (included in above 30%)

Graduate students may **only** submit a **15-20 page** research paper for the final assignment, and are not eligible to substitute the “Design an Expedition” final project.

**Required Texts:**

Iain Ferris, *Enemies of Rome: Barbarians Through Roman Eyes*  
Tacitus, *Germany*

## ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians

### Important Dates:

- January 7: First Day of Class
- January 8: HESCAH Lecture, *Caught in a Tangle of Dépaysement and Exotic Obsessions: Four German art historians in Republican China*, Harn Museum Chandler Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- January 12: Drop/Add Deadline
- January 14: Optional Lecture Response Paper Due
- January 19: Martin Luther King Day, No Class
- February 7: Symposium, *Material Culture of Late Antiquity: Continuity and Change*, Center for the Humanities
- February 11: Optional Lecture Response Paper Due
- March 2-6: Spring Break
- March 11: Museum Assignment Due
- April 10: Drop with College Petition (without failing grade) Deadline
- April 22: Last Day of Class, Final Papers/Projects Due

### Email Policy

You are requested to use your UFL email as your primary email. Important information, including readings, assignments, etc., will be disseminated via the E-learning site and the class list-serve. You are subscribed to the list-serve with your UFL email. Emails sent to the professor will usually be returned within 48 hours.

### Class Attendance/Demeanor Policy

Your attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Please also see the UF attendance policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

### Deadlines and Making-Up Missed Materials

Extensions to deadlines will not be given except under exceptional circumstances. Each day late for any assignment will result in a lowered 1/3 letter grade for that assignment (A to A- for example). If you anticipate difficulty handing in an assignment on time, please contact Dr. Jones **before** the deadline.

### Grading Scale

Grades are tabulated on a 100-point scale and a letter grade is assigned as follows:

## **ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians**

93–100 A 90–92 A- 87–89 B+ 83–86 B 80–82 B- 73–76 C 70–72 C- 67–69 D+ 63–66 C 59 and below F

If you have questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Academic Honesty**

The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links: Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty>

Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> Student Conduct: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

### **Students with Disabilities**

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Anyone requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation. Please make your request at least one week before the needed accommodation.

### **University Counseling & Wellness Center**

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100 Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

## ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians

### Assignments:

All assignments may be submitted *either* in hard copy *or* electronically, but in either case are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted.

### **4 Reading/Lecture Response Papers (10% each of final grade, 40% total)**

You are responsible for selecting one week's reading assignments and composing a 1-2 page critical response in each of four four-week blocks (Weeks 2-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13-15). Each response paper should have a clear thesis, and may bring to bear any of the themes, concepts, sites, or objects that we have considered in class to the week's readings. **For whichever week you choose to submit your response paper, it must be handed in at the start of class on Wednesday.** You may substitute a response to the Harn Eminent Scholar Lecture *Caught in a Tangle of Dépaysement and Exotic Obsessions: Four German art historians in Republican China* on **Thursday January 8 at 6:00p.m.** in the Harn Chandler Auditorium for of your first reading response, in which case it would be due on **Wednesday, January 14.** Or, you may substitute a response to the symposium *Material Culture in Late Antiquity: Continuity and Change*, on February 7 at the Center for the Humanities for your second reading response paper, in which case it would be due on **Wednesday February 11.** You may only substitute **one** reading response for a lecture response.

### **Museum Assignment 10% of final grade**

Visit the exhibition *Classical Convergences: Traditions and Inventions* at the Harn Museum of Art. Write a short (4-5pp.) critical paper evaluating the exhibition and relating it to the themes we are studying in class. Include the following information: What is the thesis of the exhibition? How is this conveyed visually and/or verbally to the visitor? What kinds of objects, artworks, or displays are included in the exhibition? How do these support the thesis of the exhibition?

**Due at the start of class, March 11**

### **Final Paper/Project 35% of final grade**

#### **Undergraduate Students**

For your final paper you have two options:

Option 1: An 8-page research paper on the topic of your choice, subject to the approval of Prof. Jones (topics must be submitted electronically for approval by 5:00 p.m. on Friday February 27. You are not limited geographically or chronologically to the content covered in the course in selecting your topic, but you may be required to provide a justification of its relevance to the themes of the course.

Option 2: Design a Roman or Barbarian monument. Illustrations, produced digitally or by hand, should accompany a 4-5 page paper describing your monument and its (invented) cultural and historical context.

**Graduate Students** must complete a 15-20 page research paper on the topic of their choice. Please remember to submit your topic for approval by 5:00 p.m. on February 7. Graduate students must also prepare a 15-minute, illustrated, oral presentation of their papers. Oral presentations will be scheduled for the weeks of April 6 and 13.

**\*All Students\*** are strongly encouraged to attend office hours or make an appointment to discuss their final papers or projects with Prof. Jones. You may, if you wish, submit a first draft of your final paper to Prof. Jones for review on or before Friday, March 27, at 5:00 p.m. Submission of a first draft is not required.

**Final Papers/Projects due at the start of class, April 22**

**Provisional Course Outline:**

Supplementary Readings may be announced to students.

**Week 1:**

**Wednesday January 7: Introduction**

What do we mean when we say “barbarian?”

**Week2:**

**Monday January 12:**

Discussion: Archaeological Ethics

**Wednesday January 14: Greeks and Barbarians 1**

**Amazons and Centaurs—Greeks Battling the Other**

Read:

Hardwick, “Amazons”

**Week3:**

**Monday January 19:**

**Wednesday January 21: Greeks and Barbarians 2—the Great Altar of Pergamon and the Attalid Victory Monuments**

Read:

Whittaker, “Art and Ideology”

**Week 4:**

**Monday January 26: Roman Republican Expansion 1**

Read:

Ferris, pp. 21-29

Woolf, “Introduction”

Caesar, *Conquest of Gaul*, selections

**Wednesday January 28: Republican Expansion 2—Origins of Triumphal Commemoration**

Read:

Holliday, “Images of Triumph”

**Week5:**

**Monday February 2: The Early Empire 1**

Read:

Rose, “Parthians in Augustan Rome”

**Wednesday February 4: The Early Empire 2**

Read: Ferris chapter 2

Bradley “On Captives under the Principate”

Kleiner and Buxton: “Pledges of Empire: The Ara Pacis and the Donations of Rome”

**Week6:**

**Monday February 9: The Roman Triumph**

Read: Josephus

Hölscher “The Transformation of Victory”

## **ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians**

### **Wednesday February 12: The Forum of Augustus**

Read: Zanker, *The Power of Images*, selections

start Tacitus, *Germany*

Krebs, "Introduction," *A Most Dangerous Book*

### **Week 7:**

### **Monday February 16: The Forum of Trajan**

finish Tacitus

Read: Packer, *The Forum of Trajan*, pp 52-83

Ferris pp 76-85

Clarke, *Art in the Lives of Ordinary Romans*, pp 28-41

### **Wednesday February 18: The Dacian Perspective**

readings tba

### **Week 8:**

### **Monday February 23: The Column of Trajan and the Victory Monument at Adamklissi**

Read: Ferris pp 63-70

Coarelli pp

### **Wednesday February 25: The Column of Marcus Aurelius**

Read: Ferris chapter 4

Dillon "Women on the Columns of Trajan and Marcus"

**Paper Topics Must be Submitted by 5:00p.m. Friday, February 27**

### **Spring Break**

### **Week9:**

### **Monday March 9: The Battle Sarcophagi**

Read: Ferris, pp 122-124

Hölscher, "Images of War,"

"Sarcophagi with Battle Scenes," pp 166-171, in *Rome and the Barbarians*

### **Wednesday March 11: Severan Arches 1**

Read: Brilliant, *The Arch of Septimius Severus*

Ferris, pp 116-121

**Museum Assignment Due**

### **Week 10:**

### **Monday March 16: Severan Arches 2**

Read: Meyer "Propaganda"

Newby "Themes and Styles in Severan Art"

### **Wednesday March 18: Coin Types and the "Miniaturization" of the Barbarian**

Read: Noreña "The Communication of the Emperor's Virtues" (course packet)

Burns, chapter 7

optional: Levi, *Barbarians on Roman Imperial Coins*

### **Week 11:**

### **Monday March 23: The Tetrarchy and the Decentralization of Imperial Rule 1**

Read Johnson "Imperial Mausolea"

Ress "Images and Image"

## **ARH 4930 Special Topics in Art History: Romans and Barbarians**

### **Wednesday March 25: The Tetrarchy and the Decentralization of Imperial Rule 2**

Read: Demandt, "The Osmosis of Late Antique and Germanic Aristocracies,"

#### **Week 12:**

### **Monday March 30: Later Triumphal Arches in Rome: Diocletian to Constantine**

Read: Wilson Jones, "Genesis and Mimesis"

Elsner, "Culture of Spolia"

optional: Touati, *The Great Trajanic Frieze*, part II

### **Wednesday April 1: Barbarians Looking at Romans 1: Clash of Empires**

Read: Canepa, pp. 53-78

Gonosova "Exotic Taste"

Mackintosh "Roman Influences"

Ferris, pp 175-177

#### **Week 13:**

### **Monday April 6: Barbarians Looking at Romans 2: From Roman Medallions to Scandinavian Bracteates**

Read: Bursche "Roman Gold Medallions"

Looijenga "Bracteate Fyn-C"

Axboe "Amulet Pendants and a Darkened Sun"

"The Religion of the Germans," pp 144-146, and "Runes," pp 150-152 in *Rome and the Barbarians*

### **Wednesday April 8: Barbarian Successor Kingdoms I**

Read: Isidore of Seville, *History of the Goths*

Jordanes, *Getica*

Burns, chapter 8

*Rome and the Barbarians*, pp 204-221, 297-309, 370-387, 451-453, 456-459, 463-475

#### **Week 14:**

### **Monday April 13: Barbarian Successor Kingdoms II**

readings tba

### **Wednesday April 15: Dress as a sign of ethnicity?**

Read: Pohl, "Telling the Difference,"

Amory, ch. 1, "Ethnicity, Ethnography, and Community"

#### **Week 15:**

### **Monday April 20: What should we call a barbarian?**

Read: Goffart, ch. 3, "An Entrenched Myth of Origins: The Germans before Germany"

Halsall, pp 22-25 "Germanism and Celticism"

Cantor, pp. 89-90 "The Germans"

Goetz, pp. 527-628, "Conclusion" to *Regna and Gentes*

### **Wednesday April 22: Barbarian Identity and Modern Nationalism**

Read: Dietlery, "Our Ancestors the Gauls,"

**Final Papers Due**