

Classics 3905G

Roman Portraiture

Course Outline – Winter 2025



COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will engage with Roman portraiture from the Republic to Late Antiquity in both Rome and the provinces. The course will involve portraits in different media including free-standing sculpture, relief, painting, and coinage. and students will learn the methods involved with the study of each. The stylistic evolution of the portraits as well as their social and political significance will be examined. By the end of the course, students will have learned techniques for identifying and analysing portraits of both known and unknown figures from the Roman world.

Prerequisites: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- 1) Understand the role of portraiture in the Roman world
- 2) Know the relevant methods for analysing Roman portraits in their most common media
- 3) Be able to identify the period in which portraits were produced
- 4) Be able to identify major figures from Roman history from their portraits
- 5) Be able to interpret the broader cultural implications of major groups of portraits
- 6) Understand the cultural influences relevant to the development of different portrait styles
- 7) Understand the modern history of Roman art history in a general sense and the ethical considerations relevant to the modern art history and museum studies

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings are posted on the course page on OWL

EVALUATIONS

Classroom Engagement	20%	All term
Notebook	30%	All term (see course schedule for check-in dates)
Annotated bibliography	10%	January 29
Presentation	15%	See course schedule for range of dates
Paper	25%	March 26

For all evaluations, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the guidelines and deadlines and to ask any questions they have prior to the due date. If accommodation is needed, it is the student's responsibility to arrange this prior to the assignment's due date.

Classroom Engagement

Classroom engagement grades will be calculated based on the student's level of preparation and participation during classroom discussions and activities. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and take notes. The weekly course readings, posted on OWL, must be completed prior to the first class of each week, and students should be prepared to discuss them. Lecture slides will be posted prior to each class meeting, but do not include all the information covered in lecture and cannot serve as a substitute for attending class. Activities and classroom discussions will take up much of the class time and require students to actively participate.

Students will be given a grade from 0-3 for each class meeting: 0 - unexcused absence, 1- present but without meaningful participation, 2 - some participation, and 3 - full engagement. The two lowest class grades will be dropped at the end of the term, meaning that students can miss two lectures without having the zeros count toward their final grade.

Any absences beyond this must receive proper accommodation through email or in-person communication with the instructor or will result in a grade of zero for that class. Accommodation for an absence must be sought prior to the absence in cases where it is known ahead of time, or within three days after when it is not, unless extreme circumstances prohibit this. Due to the interactive nature of the course, it is not possible to allow remote attendance for the course. Students who miss class should request notes from other students. I am happy to help further clarify the missed material during my office hours.

Notebook

In lieu of testing, students will be required to submit a notebook of their class notes, which will be checked and graded four times during the term. These must be handwritten. Each week, students must write notes on the readings, notes on the lectures, and a reflection on the course material. Further details on this assignment can be found on OWL in the document "Notebook Guidelines".

Annotated Bibliography

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Students will write an annotated bibliography on a research topic of their choosing. This will become the topic of their presentation and paper and must be confirmed with the instructor by the date indicated on the syllabus. Further details on this assignment can be found on OWL in the document “Annotated Bibliography Guidelines”.

Presentations

Students will give presentations to the class on their research topics. The format of the presentations will be determined prior to the term based on the number of students registered for the course. Further details on this assignment can be found on OWL in the document “Presentation Guidelines”.

Paper

Students must write an 8–11-page double spaced argumentative essay on their research topic. The paper is due at the date and time indicated on the syllabus. The necessary information is posted on OWL in the document “Paper Guidelines”.

LATE/MISSED WORK

Unexcused late work will not be accepted. All assessments for the course are worth at least 10% (with the exception of individual missed lectures, discussed above). To receive accommodation, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

OWL

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800, or with a support ticket.

OFFICE HOURS

I am happy to meet with students who want help succeeding in the course. I have fixed weekly office hours for those who prefer to be able to drop-in, which are posted on OWL. I am also able to make appointments for other times within the week upon request. Students can arrange to meet on Zoom or in person, at their preference.

EMAIL

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I will do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours on weekdays and by the next workday during weekends or holidays (i.e. if you email me after 5 PM on a Friday, you might not get a response until Monday). If I do not respond within this timeframe, feel free to resend your email to ensure a timely response.

Please send all emails through your Western email address to mine. I will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since I cannot verify your identity (and many of these are sorted to spam).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accessibility

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Religious Accommodations

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work.

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Gender-based and sexual violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>

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CLASS SCHEDULE

All readings are academic articles/chapters and can be found on OWL in the “Weekly Readings” section.

Week One: Republican Portraits

January 6: Introduction to Roman Portraiture
January 8: Republican Portraiture
January 10: Freedman Funerary Reliefs

Week 1 Readings

Week Two: The “High Empire”

January 13: Augustus
January 15: The Julio-Claudians
January 17: The Flavians-Antonines **Paper Topic Deadline**

Week 2 Readings

Week Three: The Late Empire

January 20: The Third Century
January 22: The Tetrarchs
January 24: Late Antiquity **Notebook Check-in**

Week 3 Readings

Week Four: Sculpture Methods

January 27: Sculpture Manufacture
January 29: Imperial Relief Sculpture **Annotated Bibliography Due**
January 31: Portraits in Context

Week 4 Readings

Week Five: Sculpture Challenges

February 3: Uncanonical Portraits
February 5: Mutilated and Reworked Portraits
February 7: Sculpture Workshop

Week 5 Readings

Week Six: Coins

February 10: Introduction to Numismatics
February 12: Numismatic Methods
February 14: Numismatics Workshop **Notebook Check-in**

Week 6 Readings

February 15-23: Reading Week – No Classes

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Week Seven

February 24: **Presentations**

February 26: **Presentations**

February 28: **Presentations**

No readings

Week Eight

March 3: **Presentations**

March 5: **Presentations**

March 7: Paper Writing Workshop **Notebook Check-in**

No readings

Week Nine: Portraits of Women

March 10: Imperial Women

March 12: Private Women

March 14: Adornment and Iconography

Week 9 Readings

Week Ten: Portraits in the Provinces

March 17: The Provinces

March 19: The Palmyra Portraits

March 21: Mummy Portraits

Week 10 Readings

Week Eleven: Other

March 24: Cameos, Gems, and Tokens **Papers due at the start of class**

March 26: Funerary Monuments

March 28: Final Workshop **Final Notebook Check-in**

Week 11 Readings

Week Twelve: The Legacy of Roman Portraits

March 31: The Modern History of Roman Portraits

April 2: The Art Market and Ethics

April 4: Wrap Up/Review

Week 12 Readings