

A Day in Ancient Rome - University of Sussex – 10am to 4pm - Saturday 26 Feb. 2012

The concept behind these day courses on Classical civilisations, is for students to spend a day taking a 'virtual' tour around Athens and / or Rome to learn more about their cultural heritage. These day courses are designed to enhance viewing experience by providing background information on key sites that could be covered in a day. We shall broaden the context to take into account political and social history, material culture, literature and drama in order to provide an informed appreciation of the existing sites.

This course will look at the areas of Ancient Rome that could be visited in a day – the Forum Romanum, and the Fora of Julius Caesar, Augustus, Nerva and Trajan, the Colosseum, Nero's Golden House, the Capitoline and Palatine hills, and if your feet can carry you – the Pantheon, the baths of Caracalla and the Forum Boarum.

These sites are important in understanding the political development of Rome. The Emperors' building programmes provide a valuable insight into mediating the delicate relationship between Emperor and people. It also served as propaganda to promote the ideology of Empire and for the maintenance of the political status quo.

The Forum Romanum, originally, under the Republic, the centre for political involvement of the citizens, subsequently lost its political significance and became an anomaly, as successive Emperors built their own fora to serve their own political ambitions. Other buildings served to provide the citizens with 'bread and circuses'.

We shall look at the art and architecture, and literary sources for the period, such as Tacitus and Suetonius.

Contact: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/prospectivestudents/shortcourses/x90293>