Roman Bathing: Culture and Technology

The culture and technology of Roman bathing as reflected in the archaeology of buildings and in ancient texts will be the focus of this undergraduate seminar. We will explore the technicalities of refined heating and water distribution systems, including the building of aqueducts, as much as concepts of architectural design, decoration, and the role of bath buildings for entertainment and the demonstration of public luxury on an imperial scale.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE and THEMES

Sep. 9 orientation: theme, procedures, books. What are we talking about?

- PART I: common deliberating, reading, analyzing, resulting in your first paper

Sep. 16 the archaeology of Roman bath buildings: built evidence and text sources

Sep. 23 bath buildings: specific aspects I + outlining your first paper (= a critical review of selected aspects of one of the books in the bibliography)

(Augustus' birthday!)

Sep. 30 bath buildings: specific aspects II

Oct. 7 life in, and with, Roman bath buildings: text sources

Oct. 11-14: fall break

Oct. 21 presenting and discussing draft of your first paper – perhaps with overtime!

Oct. 28 excursion to UNIVERSITY MUSEUM: objects related to ancient bathing. 1st paper due at 3:00 pm!

- PART II: your special project, resulting in your second paper

Nov. 4 introducing and discussing your special project (second paper or equivalent, e.g., graphical analysis or model building)

Nov. 11 case studies I

Nov. 18 case studies II
Nov. 25 presenting and discussing your special project
Nov. 27-30: Thanksgiving break
Dec. 2 – presentations ctd. –

Dec. 9th, 4:30 pm: deadline for 2nd paper (or equivalent) – happy winter!

REQUIREMENTS

- regular, well-prepared attendance; well-kept class journal prerequisite
- 2 presentations prerequisite
- 2 papers (5-7 typewritten pages plus sufficient illustrations, or sketches, with captions); equivalent work may be chosen for 2nd paper 49% + 51%

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection), on reserve in FFA


  furthermore:


LH 9/6/08