ARCH 411 - Ancient Roman Architecture

According to the archaeologist Frank Brown, “the architecture of the Romans was, from first to last, an art of shaping space around ritual.” This course will explore the architecture and urbanism of Rome and its empire stretching over three continents from Scotland to Syria. Against the cultural backdrop of ancient Italy and the Greek world, we will discuss Roman monumental temples, feats of engineering, urban imagery, housing, patronage, and the intersection of structure, material and form that characterizes Rome’s most salient contribution to the history of art and architecture. In the process, we will explore how Roman architects and their patrons literally reshaped the Mediterranean world, changing the way viewers related to sacred and urban space, and establishing a vision for what it meant to make *architectura*. 