

**CLAS 1140-880:  
Bread and  
Circuses:  
Society and  
Culture in the  
Roman World**

Zach Herz

MW 10:10-11:00am



For about five hundred years, people throughout southern Europe and northern Africa lived as part of what we now call ‘the Roman empire.’ Romans lived very differently than you or I, and in this class we will learn about how Romans experienced their world and their day-to-day existence. This will entail some discussion of ‘high culture’ and political change, but we will focus on the details of Roman life: how Romans ate, how they entertained themselves, and the kinds of spaces in which they did it.

We will do so primarily through lecture, but students in discussion will also read and examine primary sources from the Roman world. We will also discuss how later cultures—especially but not exclusively ours—have used Romans in order to think more clearly about their own circumstances, and have written themselves into what we now call ‘Roman history.’