**ARTH 420/599:**
The Age of Augustus: Visualizing the Pax Augusta

Professor Christopher Gregg

Spring 2019   Robinson B 373A   cgregg@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 pm or by appointment

**Course Description**
This seminar will explore the artistic and cultural output of a dynamic period in ancient Roman civilization: the reign of the first emperor, Augustus, and the transition from Republic to Empire. We will examine major works of sculpture, architecture and “luxury” arts produced from approximately 43 BCE to the early first century CE. Among our goals will be to appreciate the complex relationship that existed between Augustan art—literary as well as visual—and Augustan political ideology. Readings for the seminar will focus on major scholarly works that integrate the surviving material culture with the historical context, and we will look at ancient texts in translation in order to understand better the propagandistic monuments that Augustus constructed in Rome and elsewhere on scales varying from the modest to the mammoth. By re-contextualizing the primary pieces of Augustan art and architecture in their historical, cultural and artistic setting, the class will demonstrate the importance of the Augustan period not only to ancient Roman art but to Western concepts of political art. This seminar is a GMU Writing Intensive Course and is considered a capstone for art history majors and minors.

**Note:** Since this is a seminar and meets only once a week, your attendance and your participation are required at every session. Absences will only be excused with proper documentation: without documentation, absences will count against your final grade in the course and may prevent you from getting credit for delayed assignments. Missing more than three classes for any reason may result in a failing grade.

**Texts** (Required):


Readings on JSTOR and pdf files on Blackboard under “Course Content”

**Online:**
Suetonius, “Divus Augustus” from *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*:
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Augustus*.html

http://classics.mit.edu/Augustus/deeds.html

**Weekly Assignments**

**Course Structure:**

*Readings:* Everyone should read all of the assignments—both “Core” and “Synthesis/Discussion”—before the class meetings. In order for you to be engaged in the material and prepared for a seminar style discussion, you must have read the material thoughtfully. I also suggest taking a few notes from each reading or writing down questions/concerns that you have about the material. Remember that participation is a substantial portion of your grade in the seminar: you cannot properly participate if you have not read the material. Each week, everyone should bring into class 3-4 questions or ideas for discussion based on the reading assignments. We will use these as starting points for class discussion. Articles, unless otherwise specified, can be found in the JSTOR database.

*Core Readings:* these provide the basic details for our discussion and are fundamental to understanding the history, society, architecture and art of the period.

*Synthesis and Discussion:* these go into greater detail about one specific aspect or area of that day’s discussion.
I encourage you to read the assignments in the sequence that they are listed on the syllabus since some works will build on ideas in an earlier reading. In all events, begin with the Core Readings.

**Synthesis Papers:** For most class meetings (unless otherwise specified), you will turn in a 400-500 word, typed paper (always include word count). The paper will be based on all of the readings for that day, concentrating on but not limited to material from the *Synthesis and Discussion* assignments. The goal of the Synthesis paper is NOT to produce a summary; in this brief format, you should address one particular idea, problem or even quotation by drawing together ideas from several of the readings assigned for that day. (Note: any time that you use a quotation, you must cite the source—referencing sources is what good scholarship is based upon. In the synthesis papers, parenthetical citation is fine. Example (Pollini, p. 112)) Do not try to summarize each reading, but rather synthesize the readings into what you consider to be the “big ideas,” connections or contradictory opinions expressed in the readings. In short, the paper should be a response to the question *what have I learned once you put all of these readings together.*

You do not have to refer to every reading, but you should bring in at least two or three in each of your responses. You may want to start with a quote from one of the readings analyze it in relation to all the readings; alternately, you may want to choose one point touched on by each of the readings and compare the authors’ ideas on that point; other times, you may want to offer critiques on the methodology or effectiveness of the readings.

There is no one single approach or format. Be thoughtful and creative. As a seminar, this class is intended to make you think independently and form your own scholarly opinions: use these papers to express your thoughts in relationship to our readings.

Papers are due in class: late submissions will not be accepted. There are 7 of these due over the course of the semester: the top 5 grades worth up to 5% each will be added together at the end of the semester for each student, with the lowest two dropped, to determine 25% of your grade in the course.

**Discussion Leaders:** Each member of the class will be responsible for an oral presentation on an article under the “Synthesis and Discussion” readings. Everyone will end up presenting at least one article over the course of the semester. Graduate students may be called upon to present two articles.

For the article that you are presenting, you need to be prepared to provide a concise summary of the article: do not try to repeat everything, rather boil it down to the most significant features. *What is the author's thesis? What types of evidence do they use? What is their methodology? Is the organization effective? What are the main conclusions that they reach?* The summary should run 5-10 minutes. This will be followed by class discussion, led jointly by the presenter and myself. The presenter should come prepared with four or five points that will act as springboards for discussion: a quote, a connection with another reading/idea, a problem of methodology, etc.

**Research Paper:**
There is a list of paper topics at the end of the syllabus. I suggest that you look at a number of these (most are in one or more of the textbooks) and see what seems most interesting.

Choosing a topic: at our February 5th class meeting, you will need to hand in your top three (3) preferences for paper topics, ranked in terms of desirability. I will do my best to accommodate everyone’s preferences.

Preliminary Annotated Bibliography and Research Questions: a typed, properly formatted preliminary bibliography is due in class on March 5th. This should include a minimum of five sources (7 for graduate students in the class), not including the textbooks for the class. One primary Latin or Greek source should be included (translated texts are fine, but always specify the translator as well as the ancient author). There should be no more than two web-based resources in this initial bibliography. On the whole, I strongly advise caution when consulting web-based sources for scholarly information (images are a different matter). *Wikipedia* is NOT a scholarly source!! Make certain that you evaluate the academic integrity of your on-line sources; for the most part, .edu extensions are trustworthy, but do not take even that at face value.

The annotation for each entry should be between 25-50 words and include specific information about what the source offers as potential fuel for your research. [The previous sentence is 25 words, so these are not lengthy entries, but make them count by being precise!] You may note plans, maps and illustrations as well as significant parts of the text.
It is very important from a scholarly perspective that you include primary (ancient) sources, even if only in translation. There are a number of translations of ancient texts available, including the Loeb Classical Library series available in Library and arranged, for the most part, according to author. There are also web-based translations: the Perseus site (www.perseus.tufts.edu) is one of the most reliable. Do be aware that older translations are common so a translation done in the last 20-30 years is preferable.

For this seminar, you will be required to use the bibliographic and footnote format employed by the leading journal of classical archaeology, The American Journal of Archaeology (AJA). The format information can be found online at http://www.ajaonline.org/submissions/references

The bibliographical forms can be seen by clicking on “Sample References….” There are different forms for books, journal articles, etc. Spend some time getting familiar with these. You will use the same resource for the format of your footnotes in the draft and final paper. These formats can be found at the same link as above.

The Research Questions should reflect the various lines of inquiry that you are exploring. They will vary from topic to topic, and some may be quite basic. But, the goal is to develop a specific, original idea within your topic, so be thoughtful about the questions you ask since they will help formulate your argument.

In the draft of the paper, you will have developed these Research Questions into a thesis. The thesis may be more than one sentence: it should articulate the problem that you are working on in the paper. This is not a topic sentence which simply states the area of material being investigated. A thesis should introduce the reader to your particular approach to the material. For instance:

Topic: Portraiture of Gaius and Lucius Caesar

Research Questions: What are the essential features that define the portraits of Gaius and Lucius? Are these elements similar to the portraiture of Augustus? Why might there be similarities? How are the portraits distinguishable from one another? How have scholars attempted to organize these portraits?

Thesis: In this paper, I will argue that the hairstyles and facial features, specifically the shape of the nose and eyes, of Gaius and Lucius are intentionally modeled on those of Augustus. Some similarity may be familial since they are his grandsons, but the real motive force behind these correspondences is likely political. Given the Roman tendency towards visual propaganda, the portraits of Gaius and Lucius, Augustus’ heirs, were intentionally modeled to evoke associations with the first emperor and assist in a smooth dynastic transition.

A formal written thesis is due in class (typed) on March 26th. This may take the form of a single sentence or as much as a paragraph, depending on how easily your idea can be expressed. Your thesis may evolve as you write the final paper, and that is fine. This is a preliminary expression of your ideas, but do your best to be thoughtful and thorough with it since this can make writing the draft/final paper easier.

Paper: The paper itself will be due during exam week, specific time to be announced later. The paper must be 7-10 pages (10-15 for graduate students) and have at least 7 bibliographical sources. No more than three of those sources should be web-based. At least one reference must be an ancient source, quotation, graffito or inscription. At least a part of your paper should link its topic to material discussed in the seminar. Clarity of argument, structure, grammatical and syntactical issues will all be factored into the final grade of the paper along with the quality of research. Proofreading errors will be detrimental to the grade. Further details on the paper will be given out as the semester progresses.

A draft of the first 3-5 pages will be due on April 5th. At that point, it is also expected that your bibliography will have increased by at least 3 sources.

Research Presentation: the last several weeks of our meetings this semester will be devoted to oral and visual presentations of your research. You will need to provide both a PowerPoint presentation and a handout that outlines your topic and research approach as well as visual illustrations of the topic. These presentations will run approximately 10-12 minutes each with another 5 minutes for questions and discussion: I will set the order once topics have been selected. This should be both a general
introduction to your subject matter and a specific discussion of the thesis that you have developed in your paper. I will provide a handout detailing expectations later in the semester.

Weekly Reading Quizzes
It is my preference not to have weekly quizzes. If, however, I find that the class is not reading the assignments with adequate attention to detail and memory, I will institute brief weekly quizzes. They will be counted in the participation category of the grades. I will not announce the beginning of quizzes.

Attendance and Participation:
A seminar requires your attendance and your verbal participation at every meeting. Medical or other legitimately documented absences will be excused. All others will negatively affect your Participation grade (12% of your grade). Anyone missing more than three classes will receive a failing grade for the class.

Graduate Students:
Your weekly assignments are the same as the students enrolled at the 400 level: the expectation, however, is that your synthesis of the material in the one-pagers and in class discussion will be at a more refined level. Graduate final papers must be a minimum of 12 pages and have at least 10 bibliographical sources. All of the above statements concerning the papers also apply.

I strongly encourage everyone to come and talk to me during the course of the semester about the progress of your research and any questions that you might have.

Graded Requirements (Corrected percentages)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, preparation and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Research requirements and Thesis</td>
<td>March 5th/March 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft and Expanded Bibliography</td>
<td>Friday, April 5th (via email)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Synthesis papers</td>
<td>25%</td>
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The grading model is as follows:
A+ (100-97)  A (96-90)  A- (92-90)  B+ (89-87)  B (86-83)  B- (82-80)
C+ (79-77)  C (76-73)  C- (72-70)  D (69-60)  F (59 and below)

Weekly Schedule and Assignments

week 1, January 22: Historical Introduction
Res Gestae Divi Augusti (online resource, link on Blackboard)
Galinsky, Chapter 1 “A Principal Concept: Auctoritas,” pp. 10-24
Galinsky, Chapter 5 “Augustan Literature,” pp. 225-234

Note: no writing assignment is due this class, but be prepared to discuss what specific benefits we can get from having the Res Gestae as a source for this period.

week 2, January 29: Octavian and an Evolving Style
Core
Galinsky, Chapter 1 “The Portraits of Augustus,” pp. 164-179


Suetonius Divus Augustus sections 1-2, 9-14, 27, 50

Synthesis and Discussion
Zanker, The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus
“Chapters 1, “Conflicting Modes of Representation,” Sections pp. 1-25

Chapter 2, “Rival Images…. “ Sections on pp. 33-65
*Chapter 6, “The Moral Claim of the Classical Forms” and following, pp. 245-263

First synthesis paper is due in class and in all subsequent classes unless otherwise noted.

* Articles marked with (*) throughout the syllabus should be presented by a graduate student.

**week 3, February 5: Augustus and Augustan Classicism**

**Core**

Zanker, “The Title ‘Augustus’: A New Image,” pp. 98-100


Suetonius, *Divus Augustus* sections 79-81


**Synthesis and Discussion:** (available through JSTOR unless otherwise noted)


**Research Topic Choices (top three, ranked) due in class.**

**Synthesis 2 due.**

**week 4, February 12: Contextualizing the Images**

**Core**

Res Gestae, review

Suetonius, *Divus Augustus* section 101.4

Zanker, “Mausoleum of Augustus,” pp. 72-77

**Synthesis and Discussion**


**Synthesis 3 due**

**week 5, February 19: The Urban Landscape as Propaganda**

**Core**

Zanker, **“Architecture: Competition and Innovation,”** pp. 65-71

“Augustus’s Family: A Ubiquitous Presence in Rome,” pp. 143-145


**Synthesis and Discussion**


**Synthesis 4 due**

**week 6, February 26: The Golden Age in the City of Rome**

**Core**

Galinsky, “The Temple of Apollo on the Palatine,” pp. 213-224

Suétionius, *Divus Augustus* sections 28.3-30

**Synthesis and Discussion**


**Synthesis 5 due**

**week 7, March 5: The Ara Pacis, introduction**

**Core**


**Synthesis and Discussion**


Brian Rose, “Parthians in Rome,” *AJA* 109 (2005): pp. 36-44. This is a very useful and lengthy article which may touch on several of your research topics; we are only reading the section entitled ‘Reconfiguring the Enemy: Children,’ but everyone should skim the entire article to see if there is something relevant to your own research.

**Synthesis 6 due**

**Preliminary Annotated Bibliography and Research Questions due in class.**

**week 8, March 12: Spring Break, Class does not meet**

**week 9, March 19: The Ara Pacis, reading the myths**

**Core**

Zanker, “Aeneas and Romulus: Old Myths in a New Guise,” pp. 201-210

**Synthesis and Discussion**


**Synthesis 7 due**

**week 9, March 26: The Forum of Augustus**

**Core**
  - “A New Kind of Imagery,” pp. 110-114

- Galinsky, “The Forum of Augustus,” 197-213

**Suetonius, Divus Augustus** section 29

**Synthesis and Discussion**


**Thesis Statement due in class: no synthesis this week.**

**week 10, April 2: Moral Legislation in the Age of Augustus**

**Core**
- Zanker, Chapter 4, The Augustan Program of Cultural Renewal, pp. 101-110; 156 (*Mores Maiorum*)-166

**Suetonius Divus Augustus** sections 31 and 34

**Synthesis and Discussion**


**FRIDAY, APRIL 5th**: Drafts and expanded bibliography due digitally (email) by 8pm. I will review your draft material and return it to you so that you can incorporate any changes or suggestions into your final paper.

**week 12, April 9**

**Student Presentations**

**week 13, April 16**

**Student Presentations**

**week 14, April 23**

**Student Research Presentations**

**week 15, April 30**

**Student Research Presentations**
The due date for papers will be early in the exam period; the exact date will be announced by Week 14.

If our schedule is drastically impacted by weather or other factors, we may use our exam slot for Research Presentations. Do not make final travel plans until the schedule is finalized—probably in mid to late April.

Research Topics
The Actium/Nikopolis Monument
Aphrodisias and the Sebastion: Augustus and Julio-Claudian propaganda in the East
Boscoreale Cups
Gemma Augustea and/or other Augustan Cameos
Augustus' Parthian Triumphal Arch in the Roman Forum
Augustan family monuments in Rome
Shrine and cult of Janus in Rome in the Republic and Augustan periods
The Egyptianizing Elements in the Augustan Landscape
Augustan period tombs around Rome
Portraiture of Livia or Octavia
Portraiture of Agrippa
Hydraulic projects of Agrippa in Rome: Baths, Stagnum, aqueduct
Theaters of the Augustan period
Portraiture of freedmen (former slaves) in the Augustan period
Tropaeum at L'Turbie/Augustan Monuments in Southern France
Fresco decoration of the House of Augustus or the House of Livia
Architecture and Fresco decoration of the Villa Agrippa under the Villa Farnesina
Mosaic decoration of the Augustan period
Iconography on Augustan coinage
The Augusteum Complex at Antioch Pisidia
The Agrippan Pantheon (not the one currently standing)