



**The *Signum Vortumi* Project:
Excavations and Field School at the *Horrea Agrippiana*
2020 Field School Brief and Schedule**

This six-week on-site course at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Horrea Agrippiana in the Roman Forum is designed to introduce students to the methods of archaeological excavation in an experiential learning environment. Students will gain knowledge of the skills and conceptual methods with which contemporary archaeologists assess archaeological contexts as they are uncovered. You will explore a broad range of techniques and technologies including stratigraphic excavation, practices of object identification and analysis, identification of organic remains for scientific analysis, cultural heritage record keeping, surveying, and digital photographic and site analysis. Students will take part in all aspects of excavation and learn the basic techniques before then applying these methods to their own assessments of the excavations and the larger topographical situation of ancient and modern Rome.

This summer we will continue to uncover the pre-Imperial period remains below the imposing *Horrea Agrippiana*. Excavation will begin in several specific areas and we will encounter material culture ranging from the Archaic to Medieval periods. Students will work in all areas of excavation practice in order to gain a broad education in archaeological field techniques on site and under the supervision of experts in the branches of archaeological practice and research. All students will begin with basic training in field excavation with a variety of tools and technologies and then apply this training immediately in the systematic stratigraphic excavation of the site. Students will then rotate through each section of the excavation: fieldwork; finds (ceramics, object and environmental analysis); data (survey, database management, geospatial and photo modeling).

Texts:

Before arriving on site, students are expected to read and be familiar with the materials from the course packet, which you will receive following your registration for the program. As stratigraphic excavation is difficult to comprehend outside of practice, students are still expected to work on their own time before arriving on site to gain enough familiarity with the concepts, methods, and best practices so that they can begin interpreting and applying them quickly.

Tour packets, welcome packs, and other printed materials will be provided to registered students both via email and in hard copy upon their arrival in Rome.

Recommended for getting to know ancient Rome: Coarelli, F. (2014) *Rome and its Environs. An Archaeological Guide*. Berkeley: University of California Press.



Requirements:

Attendance for the full length of every day is mandatory. For all excavation days, we will begin at 7:30 AM and end at 4:00 PM with an hour break for lunch (see schedule below). Students are expected to arrive punctually every morning for excavation and participate each day in both the physical and intellectual aspects of the dig. Assessment will be based on active and productive participation, engagement with the site and the processes of excavation and motivation to contribute to the work at hand. Students must participate in all components of the course.

In the last two weeks of excavation each student will present a 10-minute assessment of the stratigraphy, finds, and situation of their sector of the excavation, a thorough, cogent and accurate presentation of the area in itself and in relation to the site as a whole. Stratigraphic analysis of the trench must be the foundation of all presentations. In order to do this properly, it will be crucial to reflect on the whole of the stratigraphy, beginning with the first layers encountered during the summer and perhaps incorporating information from past years of excavation. In preparation for this presentation, it is recommended that you keep a record or journal of your experience and what you have uncovered.

Throughout the summer, as you're excavating, you should keep the readings from the course packet in mind. When you find yourself confused or wanting to learn more about a process, they should be your first reference. When you find yourself contemplating a practice, method or way of excavation, study and analysis in relation to a reading please ask the staff or directors for clarification.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One:

Sunday, June 14th:

- Arrival to Rome (various times)
- Check-in to apartments and walking tours of neighborhoods (throughout the day)
- Arrival dinner in Monti (Pizzeria alle Carrette) – 7:30 PM

Monday, June 15th:

- Meet in the Forum Boarium (Temple of Hercules Victor) for walking tour #1 – 10:00AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM
- Walking tour #2 – Ghetto and Tiber Island– 2:00 PM
- End at Temple of Hercules Victor – 4:30 PM

Tuesday, June 16th:

- Meet at Piazza Venezia for walking tour #3 – Imperial fora – 10:00 AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM
- Walking tour #4 – Oppian Hill
- End at Cavour metro stop – 2:30 PM



Wednesday, June 17th:

- Meet at Piazza Venezia for walking tour #5 – Campus Martius Part 1 – 10:00 AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM
- Walking tour #6 – Campus Martius Part 2 – 2:00 PM
- End at Piazza Flaminia/Villa Borghese – 4:30 PM

Thursday, June 18th:

- Meet at Arch of Titus gate – Walking tour #7 – Roman Forum – 10:00 AM
- Free afternoon! (No lunch scheduled)
- Students are encouraged to visit the Musei Capitolini on the Capitoline Hill

Friday, June 19h:

- Lecture to recap the last week of tours and go over the excavation goals – 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (location TBC)
- Free afternoon! (No lunch scheduled)

Week Two:

Monday, June 22nd:

- Meet at Arch of Titus gate – first day on site – 8:30 AM
 - o Meet the team!
 - o Site orientation
 - o Safety and tool use
- Cookie break – 10:00 AM
- Lay out trenches and begin stripping of top soil and cleaning site – 10:30 AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM
- Continue removing topsoil and cleaning site – 1:30 PM
- End – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, June 23rd – Thursday, June 25th:

- Meet at Arch of Titus gate – 7:30 AM
- Excavation
- Break – 10:00 AM
- Excavation – 10:30 AM
- Lunch – 12:30
- Excavation – 1:30 PM
- Break – 2:45
- Excavation – 3:00 PM
- End – 4:00 PM

Friday, June 26th:

- Arrive for excavations at 7:30 AM
- Break – 10:00 AM
- Excavation – 10:30 AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM



- Lecture 1 – 1:30 PM
 - o Artifacts and materials
- Break – 2:45 PM
- Lecture 2 – 3:00 PM
 - o Context sheets
- End – 4:00 PM

Week Three to Six:

Monday – Thursday*:

- Start time – 7:30 AM
- Excavation
- Break – 10:00 AM
- Excavation – 10:30 AM
- Lunch – 12:30
- Excavation – 1:30 PM
- Break – 2:45
- Excavation – 3:00 PM
- End – 4:00 PM

Fridays**:

- Start time – 7:30 AM
- Break – 10:00 AM
- Excavation – 10:30 AM
- Lunch – 12:30 PM
- Lecture 1 – 1:30 PM
- Break – 2:45 PM
- Lecture 2 – 3:00 PM
- End – 4:00 PM

*Depending on the week lectures will either be on Monday or Friday

**Depending on work requirements not all weeks will feature two afternoon lectures

- ◆ **An optional field trip to the Via Appia and the Roman suburbs will be offered on the Saturday after Week 4. A sign up sheet will be passed around the site prior to the trip.**

- ◆ **The farewell dinner will be on July 24th at 8:00 PM (Location TBC)**