

**SC04 From Rome to Byzantium: the transition from classical to early Byzantine world in the history, culture, literature and art of the 3rd to the 6th centuries AD**

***This course will run subject to sufficient numbers enrolling - There will be a limited number of places available on this course***

Did the Roman Empire really collapse? Was the transition from Classical civilization to late antiquity the end of an era? Was this decline caused by migrations and the advent of Christianity?

In this course we will address these questions in exploring the period between the third to the seventh century AD (from Diocletian to Justinian), which marked one of history's great turning points and the transition from the ancient to the modern world, from pagan polytheism to Christianity, from Roman Empire to Medieval states.

In the first term, the overarching themes of this course will be explored with informative lectures on the history, culture, and society of the period, and through the reading of selected sources to support our understanding of this dynamic period. There will be opportunities to focus on the fascinating works of both the late antique classicising authors and of the early Christian Fathers. Engaging discussions will explore the relevance and significance of the key historical turning points and of contemporary thought for our modern life, culture and society.

In the second term, we will focus on the great personalities of late antiquity. This dynamic world was populated by diverse people (the "barbarians") who deeply influenced the culture, literature and art of the time. We will travel to Constantinople and Ravenna to appreciate the artistic continuity with classical tradition and the new inspirations coming from the East, and we will meet fascinating personalities such as Empress Theodora, Claudian, St Augustine, and Julian 'the Apostate', as well as reading ancient sources such as Procopius, Ammianus Marcellinus, and Nonnus, to understand how much of the empire's legacy lived on through the institutions of the church.

<b>Teacher:</b>	Dr Cosetta Cadau
<b>Fee:</b>	€150 for the course.
<b>Concession</b>	€75 for the course
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>Monday 25 September 2017</b>
<b>Lectures per week:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Time and venue:</b>	Mondays 7 - 8 p.m. <b>Room 4050B Arts Building</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	Two twelve-week terms with a one week break (6-10 November 2017 & 26 February – 2 March 2018)