

Constantine the Great: life and legacy

Start date 23rd February 2018

End date 25th February 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Werner de Saeger

Course code 1718NRX048

Director of Programmes

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course,
please contact**

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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Werner de Saeger is a tutor at the University of Oxford and was educated at Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, Leiden, Leuven, Brussels, and Jerusalem. His main focus is the interdisciplinary history of the Roman world of the 3th and 4th centuries AD. He has done research at the Sorbonne, in the Vatican, and in Italy, Germany, and Turkey, on the history of the Roman Empire.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introducing Constantine the Great
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	From the religion of Ancient Rome to Christianity
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Politics and Law in the Constantinian revolution
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Roman and Early Christian Art <i>ante pacem</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The development of Christian Art under Constantine the Great
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Architectural History of the Constantinian era – part I (Italy)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Architectural History of the Constantinian era – part II (Jerusalem, Constantinople, Trier)
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The aim of this course is to provide students with thorough insights in a crucial part of Roman history through an in-depth analysis of Constantinian art and architecture.

Content:

Starting with the Roman emperor Constantine's birth, youth, and surprising conversion to Christianity, this course will provide you with an in-depth view of the changes in art, architecture, religion, and government which took place at a crucial moment in the history of the Western world. From a comprehensive analysis of the building projects initiated by Constantine, particularly in the architectural palimpsests which were Rome, Jerusalem, and Constantinople, and the politico-legal changes he brought to the Roman Empire which would change the Western world forever, to the religious rulings he decided and the consequences of these for both Christian and secular art, this course will help you understand why some call Constantine a saint, but for others he is to be seen as one of Rome's most terrible emperors.

Presentation of the course:

We will use the traditional *ex cathedra* method, as well as class discussion, and critical thinking exercises.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Understand the multidisciplinary nature of the revolution in fourth-century Rome.
- Grasp the non-linear and complex evolutions in the art and architecture of the fascinating Roman Empire.
- Acquire the ability to communicate on the multifaceted character of the various changes in Roman society in Late Antiquity.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title
John William Eadie	<i>The Conversion of Constantine</i>
Richard Krautheimer	<i>Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture</i>
Jonathan Bardill	<i>Constantine, Divine Emperor of the Christian Golden Age</i>

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 12 October 2017