

ARTH-A421 PAGANS AND CHRISTIANS: CHRISTIAN ART IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

CASE S&H Credit

Intensive Writing

FALL 2018 CLASS # 30770 | PROFESSOR SARAH BASSETT | BALLANTINE 219 | MW 8:00-9:15

This course explores the dialogue between pagan and Christian culture that took place from the fourth century through the seventh as manifest in the visual traditions of painting, sculpture, and architecture. It considers the relationship between these two cultures in the context of such issues as the demise of pagan temples and the invention of the Christian church, the development of the cult of the saints, the codification of the Christian Bible, and the persistence of pagan literary and intellectual culture. Its purpose is two-fold: to acquaint students with the art and architecture of the late antique world and the scholarship that informs it, and in so doing to consider how visual expression in the later Roman Empire can be understood as an aspect of knowledge.