Course Description:
The Roman house and tomb were a constant focus of public life. Consequently, the ancient notion of ‘private’ appears to be relatively ‘public’ from a modern perspective. In fact, the Latin terms *privatus* and *publicus* differ from our current categories of ‘private’ and ‘public.’ With the discussion of ancient concepts of private and public, this course explores the construction of social identity in the Roman world. In particular, we will examine what ‘private’ contexts (the house and the tomb) can tell us about not only personal and familial behaviors and tastes, but also social practices and expectations. By examining Romans’ concern with ‘public’ identity, this course also explores Roman attitudes toward sex and sexual imagery. We will thus discuss what “erotic” images found in domestic and funerary contexts can tell us about ancient Roman culture and the everyday lives of the Romans themselves.

This course examines the concepts of private and public by looking at the material contexts of the house (in particular, *domus* and *villa*), focusing on its layout, architectural features, and decoration; it also explores funerary monuments and the display of ‘private’ (but publicly visible) works of art. Students will have the opportunity to engage with examples and evidence taken from different sites of the Roman Empire, but with a special focus on the ancient and well-preserved cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. By looking at literary and archaeological evidence, we will consider how Roman domestic and funerary art was meant to create an appropriate setting for the construction of social identity, as well as for the performance of familial, social, and religious ritual.

Application Procedure: Undergraduate students at USC who are interested in applying for enrollment should send a résumé and cover letter (explaining their experience and interest in the course topic) to digitalhumanities@dornsife.usc.edu by Friday, April 21, 2017. In the subject line please include: “USC DH Summer Tutorial Application – Title – Your Last Name.”
The Domus and its context: understanding the categories of 'private' and 'public'

1. Readings:
   - Vitruvius’ De Architectura VI.5; New Pauly (excerpts) on Latin privatus and publicus.

2. Readings:
   - Petronius’ Cena Trimalchionis.

The Villa as status symbol

3. Readings:
   - Pliny’s Letters on his Villas: 2.17; 5.6; 9.7

4. Readings:
   - Optional reading: Guide to the Getty Villa [excerpts].
   - Meeting at the GETTY VILLA, 2pm.

Commemorating death

5. Readings:
   - Polybius, History 53-54.

6. Readings:

Monumentum aeternum and social expectations

7. Readings:

8. Readings:

**Attendance, Participation and Weekly Assignments:**
Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Each student will be responsible for one short presentation based on the readings (ca. 10 minutes). This presentation will occur at the beginning of the class session and is meant to introduce the readings and to encourage student discussion.

**Note:**
- There is no required text for this course; readings will be provided to you via email.
- We will hold at least one of our class meetings at the Getty Villa in Malibu (exact date TBD), where students will have the opportunity to explore the ancient collections in a setting that recalls an ancient Roman luxury villa. This is a mandatory meeting. Tickets to the museum are free, but parking costs $15/car. While I will make arrangement for parking, students are responsible for arranging their own transportation (please, try to carpool with your fellow students). In addition, consult the museum website for information on the Getty Villa: [http://www.getty.edu/visit/villa/](http://www.getty.edu/visit/villa/).