10/24 Post discussion question(s) on the course wiki
Post question(s) on the course wiki by 9pm Thursday 10/24 (for class on 10/25).
The reading assigned for Friday’s class is an academic publication reconstructing pollution levels at
the Faynan Orefield in Jordan. We will be watching part of a documentary on the very same mining
site. Come to class prepared to discuss the article and be ready to compare/contrast the portrayal of
the site in the documentary to that in the article. Post a question on the course wiki the night before
class. These should be thoughtful and relevant to the objectives of the discussion.

10/25 Research Paper Proposals
Due in class.
A proposal of your paper topic will be due so that I can assist you in developing your research. This
proposal should be 1-2 paragraphs in length and should outline the research question, types of
evidence, and methodology that you will use. This proposal should also include a short working
bibliography (8-10 sources).

10/30 Short Essay Writing Assignment is due in class
Due in class.
After watching various documentaries on Roman technology in class, it’s now your turn to be a critic
and to write a critical review of the show. In the process of writing, think about some of the following
questions: What were the show’s main themes? How was technology presented? What people, if
any, were tied to the application and use of technology? What perspective does the show endorse
concerning technology and ancient society? The paper should be argument-driven and use examples
from the program. Please include the title of the documentary you are reviewing, where it is aired,
and a brief summary of the program’s content. When writing, please consult the writing guidelines
provided in the course syllabus.

10/31 Post discussion question(s)
Post question(s) on the course wiki by 9pm Thursday 10/31 (for class on 11/1).
The lectures presented this week have focused largely on the technical and social sides of Roman
building. The article assigned for today attempts to quantify in economic and labor costs the
construction of imperial, monumental buildings in the city of Rome. How are these perspectives
complementary? Do they conflict? How do they relate to other topics / industries we have discussed
so far in the class? Post a question on the course wiki the night before class. These should be
thoughtful and relevant to the objectives of the discussion.

11/14 Post discussion question(s)
Post question(s) on the course wiki by 9pm Thursday 11/14 (for class on 11/15).
Throughout much of this course we have discussed the relationship between technology and labor.
However, when discussing labor it is often assumed to be performed by men. What about other
segments of society? Where are the women? How did the Romans perceive child labor? Post a
question on the course wiki the night before class. These should be thoughtful and relevant to the
objectives of the discussion.

12/2 and 12/4 Presentations of Final Research Paper
Each student will give a formal presentation of their long research essays in class. Each presentation
should be 10 minutes in length and should clearly summarize the research questions and findings of
their paper. Visual aids (powerpoint, posters, white board) are encouraged. Students will be
evaluated on their presentation style, ability to articulate their material in a concise fashion, as well
as the content of their presentation.
12/6 Long Research Essay (1500-2000 words)

Due in class.
A long research paper on a topic of your choice will be due by the end of the semester. The paper should address an aspect or topic concerning Roman technology, but should attempt to relate technology to broader social or economic themes. Several possible themes have been presented throughout the course. Some examples that come to mind include: displays of power (and resistance), technological choices, systems of technology and technological knowledge, Mediterranean Micro-regions, and imperialism (symbolic displays vs. practicalities of administration), primitivist vs. modernist perspectives on the Roman economy, embodied or cognitive understandings of technology. The paper should be argument-driven (not simply descriptive) and should cite references properly. Please see the syllabus for writing guidelines.

12/19 Final Exam 2pm