

**Exercise 1: Exploring Roman Ostia**

Many Italian cities were founded during Roman times and were originally built on the standard Roman plan, with the standard urban “kit of parts.” In some Italian cities, traces of the Roman city remain in the layout and built form even today. Ostia was rebuilt in Imperial times, but traces of the original Republican city remain.

You are to be an urban detective during the class field trip to Ostia and search out traces of the original *castrum* and the standard urban parts. These traces could be in many forms, including two-dimensional organization, location of functions, or built form (though in ruins)

Process:

Step 1. Field Work:

Familiarize yourself with the layout of ancient Ostia. Diagram and sketch in your working sketchbook; photograph; buy maps, brochures or postcards. As you observe and document the urban form, keep in mind the standard pattern for a Roman city and its elements.

Step 2. Presentation:

Draw/trace a plan of Ostia in your presentation sketchbook. Diagram on it the Roman traces you have discovered. On subsequent pages, keyed to your diagram, illustrate these traces. Prepare a 5 minute talk explaining your project.

Evaluation: Work will be evaluated on the basis of accuracy, comprehensiveness and quality of presentation.

Due: Week of June 6 at beginning of lecture class.