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Greek and Roman Studies Department to Present 'Rome' Speaker

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***** Due to inclement weather and traveling conditions, this event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in the fall *****

Greek and Roman Studies Department to Present 'Rome' Speaker

February 12, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Ronald Mellor, professor of Greek and Roman history at the University of California, Los Angeles, will deliver a lecture entitled "Rome on the Small Screen: BBC's *I, Claudius* and HBO's *Rome*" at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15 in room E103 of Illinois Wesleyan University's Center for Natural Science (201 Beecher St., Bloomington).

Prior to the lecture, at 4 p.m., the Greek and Roman Studies Department, which coordinated the lecture, will show an episode of *Rome* in the same location. Following the lecture, at 6 p.m., they will host a small reception. The event is free and open to the public.

Rome, currently in its second season, is an HBO television series, which debuted in 2005. Produced on location in Italy, the story chronicles the violent transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire around the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BCE. *I, Claudius*, based on the novel by Robert Graves, is a thirteen-part miniseries narrating the family saga of Roman Empire Claudius, spanning the time from 44 BCE to 41 CE. Originally aired on the BBC in 1976, it has been hailed by critics as a classic in the miniseries genre.

Mellor, who has taught at UCLA since 1976, began his career at Stanford University and earned his doctorate in Classics from Princeton University. The majority of his research has centered on ancient religions and Roman historiography. Since 1975, Mellor has published six works, his most recent, *Augustus and the Creation of the Roman Empire*, in 2005. His current research project is another book, *The Annals of Tacitus*, to be published by Oxford University Press.

For additional information, contact Director of Greek and Roman Studies Nancy Sultan at (309) 556-3173.



Ronald Mellor

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