

DAILY LIFE IN POMPEII

LA CS LP 310

Summer 2008

Schedule: Monday to Thursday, 3:00pm –5.30 pm

Prof. Laura Visentin

1- DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to bring to life the Roman city of Pompeii as it was at the time of its destruction by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 .

The development of the town is followed through an analysis of the surviving “material evidences” – every day life objects, frescoes, sculpture and architecture, in order to reconstruct the daily life of Pompeii, its economy, religious practices, entertainment, urban development, its politics and its relationship with Rome. For better understanding how a Roman town was organized a useful comparison would be made with the Roman colony of Florentia (Florence).

A visit to the National Archaeological Museum of Florence, and a three-day field trip to Pompeii, Naples (Archaeological Museum) and Herculaneum are a fundamental part of the course.

2- OBJECTIVE

The aim of the course is to examine Roman society and culture in microcosm through the study of the archaeological remains of Pompeii.

The course proposes an archaeological approach to the study of the history of Pompeii: through a direct contact with archaeological remains (structures and materials) students will learn how to reconstruct everyday life in an ancient Roman town.

3- REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course. There will be no assumption of knowledge of the ancient world although some historical knowledge is preferable.

Classes are intended to be interactive therefore an active participation of the students is strongly recommended during lessons.

Through group and individual presentations of chosen topics students have to demonstrate their ability to work independently and in teams.

Students are required to complete the readings before class and to present in class the argument of the day.

Because part of the lecture will be focused on required readings, students must always have **copy of the textbooks** with them.

4- METHOD

Lectures with slides, class discussion, videos, museum visits and field trip.

Handouts to support lectures and visits will be provided by the teacher.

Classes usually start with a short discussion of the given readings and a brief summary of the arguments treated in the previous lecture.

An oral presentation “on site” (Pompeii or Naples) of a topic chosen will be required.

5- ATTENDANCE-ABSENCE POLICY

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to FUA's academic policies. This is reflected in the attendance policy.

Class attendance is mandatory and counts towards the final grade.

Students may request a one-time (for one day) excused absence for a medical emergency from the Front Desk in Via Maqliabechi.

Requests must be made within 24 hours of the absence- this includes absences on Thursday (see student handbook for instructions).

If a student is ill for multiple days, they must contact their study abroad provider in Florence (to report a medical issue) as well as FUA (to alert faculty). Students should consult the handbook for the procedure to follow.

During the Summer:

- After the third (2nd) absence the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade.
- After the fourth (3rd) absence the student may receive an Automatic Failure.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences they have in a course.

6- TESTS – ASSIGNMENTS –SOURCES

Students are required to study the assigned readings before coming to class and, divided into groups, to discuss them briefly.

All information given during lectures, visits and field trips, in addition to those found in the readings and handouts will be considered part of the program, and students are expected to include them in the preparation of exams and tests.

Students are expected to write two papers – one during the first part of the term and one in the second (no more than 5 pages) - on selected topics which focus on one of the aspects treated in class as well as on the readings provided during the lessons. All papers must include proper footnotes and a bibliography of the sources selected. Books or excerpts from them useful to the papers are listed under point 8).

For the second paper students, divided in groups, are asked to prepare an oral presentation which will be presented during the field trip in Pompeii and Naples.

Papers must be handed by **Oct. 11** and **Dec. 6**.

Mid-term and final exams will consist of a written text based on open answer questions and short essay answers.

The day of the exams CANNOT be changed for any reason, so arrange yourself in order to avoid interference with the class and the date of the exams.

7- EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

qAttendance: 20%

qMid-term : 25%

qFinal exam: 25%

qPaper 1: 15%

qPaper 2: 15%

Participation in the Pompeii field trip is **mandatory**: in case you will have serious problems in coming you are invited to talk to the professor.

Remember that the Pompeii field trip counts as two class meetings, not participating will affect your attendance grade as 2 absences.

100-93=A 92-90=A-

89-87=B+

86-83=B

82-80=B-

79-77=C+ 76-73=C

72-70=C-

69-60= D

59-0=F

8-TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS

The mandatory required readings are the following :

Text books:

-Eva Cantarelli & Luciana Jacobelli *A Day in Pompeii – daily life, culture and society*, Naples 2003.

The textbook will be given out to students on the first day of class – you have paid for it in your lab fee. **Handouts** will be provided by the professor.

Further suggested readings: (all books are in the FUA Library):

J. E., Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City*, The John Hopkins University Press, 1988.

R. Etienne *Pompeii: the Day a City Died*, NY, 1992

The National archaeological Museum of Naples – Catalogue, Naples, 1996

Jo-Ann Shelton *As the Romans Did. A Sourcebook in Roman Social History.* nd ed. Oxford 1998

A. Varrone, *Eroticism in Pompeii*, Erma di Breitschneider, 2001.

A. D' Ambrosio, *Women and beauty in Pompeii*, Erma di Breitschneider, 2001

E. de Carolis, *Gods and Heroes in Pompeii*, Erma di Breitschneider, 2001

A. Wallace-Hadrill, *Houses and society in Pompeii and Herculaneum*, Princeton, 1994.

L. Richardson, Jr. *Pompeii: An Architectural History*, Baltimore 1988

R. Harris, *Pompeii*.

M. B. Rowler, *Dining posture In ancient Rome. Bodies, values and status*, Princeton University press, 2006.

9- LAB- FEES TBA

Text book Archaeological Museum of Florence Field trip to Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum (the cost include one way ticket Florence-Naples, entrance tickets to Pompeii, Herculaneum and National Archaeological Museum in Naples, transports in Naples, bed and breakfast for two nights in Naples).

10- VISITS-TRIPS

The following visits are mandatory and are a fundamental part of the course.

Date and time could be subject to changes. SUMMER DATES TBA

1. National Archaeological Museum of Florence.

Meeting point at in front of the Museum entrance, via della Colonna, 38 (15-20 minutes walking distance from the school). Reservation n. TBA

2. Walk In the centre of Florence looking for what remains of Roman Florence. Meeting point In class.

3. 3 days (Thursday/Saturday) field trip to Naples, Pompeii and Herculaneum. See handout for field trip details

11- MATERIAL LIST

not applicable

12- FINAL EXAM-FINAL PAPER

Guidelines and details will be made available on the first day of class.

A Final Paper must be handed in by **TBA**. Final exam will consists of a written text based on open answer questions and short essay answers.

13- LESSONS

- 1)
 - i. Introduction to the course: presentation of the syllabus and information on exams, sources, field trip
 - ii. Introduction, History and Archaeology in Pompei
- 2) Pompei: from an Etruscan and Samnite settlement to a Roman colony. Theory and practice in building a town.
Video: "Pompeii" (part I).
Readings:
E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**),
Introduction to the History and Archaeology of Pompeii, pp. 7-14.
Pompeii: the day a city Died (handout), pp. 138-145.

- 3) Before the Romans: the Etruscans.
Visit to the Archaeological Museum of Florence
 Meeting point at 12.00am at the Museum entrance, via della Colonna, 38 (15-20 minutes walking distance from the school).
Readings:
 The National Archaeological Museum of Naples – Catalogue, *The cultures of pre-roman Campania: the Etruscans, the italic peoples and their cities (handout)*, pp. 33-34.
- 4) City Government: the Forum area.
Walk: Roman Florence
Assignment of topics for paper 1
Readings:
 E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**), *Politics*, pp. 24-29; pp.92-97.
- 5) The City and the Gods: the temple. State Cults, Private beliefs and Mystery Cults.
Video: "Pompeii (part 2)
Readings:
 E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**), *Religious life*, pp. 36-44; pp. 90-91, p. 96, p. 109.
 The National Archaeological Museum of Naples – Catalogue, *.The temple of Isis..*, pp. 130-133.
- 6) Leisure time: games, sports, beths and brothels.
 Review for mid term exam.
Hand out paper 1
Readings:
 E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**), *Leisure and entertainments*, pp. 73-86; 98-99, p. 105, pp. 107-108, 116-117.**Hand in paper 1**
 A. Varrone (**handout**), *Eroticism in Pompeii*, The depiction of phallus, pp. 14-27.
- 7) **MID- SESSION EXAM**
- 8) Households and Housing: the family and the House. The role of women.
Video: "A journey to Pompeii"
Assignment of topics for paper 2
Readings:
 E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**), *Family life and the condition of women*, pp. 16-23.
Housing styles, pp. 46-61; pp. 100-101, pp. 102-103, 114-115, pp. 120-121.
- 9-10) Nov. 15-17 **3 DAY FIELD TRIP to Pompeii, Naples (Archaeological Museum) and Herculaneum.**
Oral presentation on site of paper 2.
Readings: National Archaeological Museum of Naples, pp. 144, 145, **333, 334, 337.**
- 11) Economy: the commercial city.
Video: "Herculaneum"

Readings:

E. Cantarella, L. Jacobelli (**text book**), *the Economy*, pp. 30-35; p.104, pp. 112-113.

Pompeii: the day a city Died, pp. 63-75.

12) **Watching the movie "The Gladiator" by R. Scott.**

13) **Guest lecture TBA; student presentations**

14)

Conclusions. Review and preparation to the final exam.

Hand in paper 2

Readings:

Pompeii: the day a city Died, Italian journey, pp. 154-169.

15) **FINAL EXAM**