HIST 391 - ETRUSCANS AND ROMANS
(Monday-Wednesday  2:00-3:30 PM)    FALL 2015

Prof. Giulia Pëttëna – giulia.pettena@gmail.com
Office hours: by appointment only
Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will focus on history, culture, society and daily life of the two most important civilizations of ancient Italy, the Etruscans and the Romans. Defining the basic events of their history and the value and influence of both cultures and societies will reveal the origins of many aspects of Western European culture and of modern Western society in general. Lectures and readings will be supplemented by slides and videos, site visits to Etruscan and Roman sites (in and outside Florence) and a field trip to Rome.

The first half of the course will focus on the Etruscans, whose great cities occupied the area of modern Tuscany and northern Lazio in Italy, and whose civilization was “the most important and powerful in Italy before the Romans” (Livy, History of Rome, 1.4). After the rise of their important city-states and the control of a great part of Italy and of the neighbouring city of Rome, their decline and eclipse will be caused first by the Greeks and later by the Romans, who finally will absorb completely the Etruscan territory and civilization. As their language remains mostly unknown, what we know about Etruscan history, society, religion, art, literature and daily life comes primarily from the remains of their material culture, i.e. the archaeological evidence of their extraordinary tombs and works of art, advanced culture, society, techniques and ideologies, which will influence and mark the formation and the first advancements of the Roman world. Examining the different aspects of cultural contacts between Etruscans and Romans, the first term will highlight the extent of the Etruscan influence on their conquerors, the Romans.
The second part of the term will be on the history and culture of the Roman world, from Rome’s beginnings in myth and legend through its rise to domination of the Mediterranean world, its violent conversion from a Republic to an Empire, and the long success of that Empire down to its collapse in the fifth century A.D. Roman history and culture will be described and analyzed focusing not only on the development of Roman institutions and political system, but also on the social structure, economy, law and administration, military strength and skill, literature, art, architecture and engineering of the Roman Empire and the daily life of its people. The study of the Roman world will highlight the great cultural heritage left by this ancient civilization and the origins of many aspects of Western European culture and of modern Western society in general.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, students should:

- Gain understanding of the general value of the knowledge of ancient history and culture as a means of interpreting the human experience in general and the origins of modern societies.
- Have a good understanding of the concept of primary and secondary sources in the study of ancient history.
- Define and master the basic events of Etruscan and Roman history, the mutual influences and close relations between these two great civilizations of ancient Europe.
- Become familiar with some cultural issues typical of the periods studied, with the general features of art, with the daily life, values and social attitudes of both ancient civilizations.
- Be able to place artworks and other archaeological evidence in the appropriate context.
- Be able to trace the origins of many aspects of Western European culture and of modern Western society in general.
- Gain understanding of the political, religious and intellectual heritage of Etruscan and Roman societies and use it as a means of interpreting the human experience through history.

**TEACHING METHOD**

Class meets twice a week for 14 weeks. Our lectures will be supplemented by slide shows, videos, in-class discussions, visits to museums and archaeological sites of interests, and a field trip to Rome.

Participation in the visits and the field trip is mandatory. Missing them will result in an absence.
REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM CONDUCT. Because there is a close correlation between class attendance and satisfactory performance, the student is expected to come to class. Being present means being on time for class. Cell phones and other noise-making electronics must be turned off. Students are not allowed to use their laptops during class.

Gonzaga in Florence Attendance Policy (effective Fall Semester 2013)
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class from the first day of the semester. The student entering class after attendance is taken has to contact the professor at the end and announce his/her presence. However, this does not mean that coming late is accepted. Two late arrivals may be excused, three turn automatically into an absence and will affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade.

Students can miss one week’s work, irrespective of the course formula (three sessions, two sessions, one session). It is their responsibility to make up for the missed work. If they miss a quiz or a report they are not allowed to have it at another time, unless the absence is for certified medical reasons and the professor and Dean agree.

More than one week’s work missed is going to be penalized as follows:
One extra absence:
1. by lowering the attendance and participation grade as determined by the professor
Two extra absences:
2. by lowering the final grade by a whole letter grade
Three extra absences:
3. by grading the whole course F

2. ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION. Participation in class and discussions are strongly encouraged; preparation is expected and required for every class. The reading assignments will be of fundamental help in the full comprehension of the lecture topics.

3. SITE VISITS & FIELD TRIP TO ROME. Students will be required to participate in site visits and a field trip to Rome. The trips and visits will be carefully prepared in class: archaeological sites, monuments and works of art in general will be surveyed beforehand in a lecture-slide format with some discussion.

Site Visits:
- FIELD TRIP TO ROME (one day trip)
- VISIT TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF FLORENCE
- SITE VISIT TO FIESOLE
- VISIT TO PALAZZO VECCHIO, ROMAN THEATRE EXCAVATIONS
4. EXAMS.
Major Exams; a mid-term (Week 7) and a final (Week 14).
The general format of the mid-term exam will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching short answer, maps, plans and slides identification. The mid-term exam will include questions on the topics covered in the first half of term.
The general format of the final exam will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching short answers, maps, plans, texts and slides identification; essays. The final exam will focus mainly on the topics of the second half of term. The examinations will be designed to allow students to demonstrate their comprehension of the basic concepts of the course.

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<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Essays</td>
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Make-up policy
Exam extension requests will not be honored. The only good reason to be unable to attend class the day an exam is due is illness, attested by a physician’s note. In any other case, the exam grade will be entered as an F. If you miss an exam because you are ill, you can make up for it by writing an extra or longer paper about some aspect of Etruscan and Roman history. The exact subject of the paper and the extra-readings required for it will be agreed upon and discussed with me.

REQUIRED READINGS
Readings will be assigned during lectures.
A book of the required and assigned readings will be available both in the library and on an on-line blackboard.

SUGGESTED READINGS

**Etruscans**

**Romans**
Boatwright M., *The Romans from Village to Empire*, Oxford University, 2006.
http://www.mlloyd.org/mlloyd/index/polybius/intro.htm
Huskinson J. (ed.), *Experiencing Rome. Culture, Identity and Power in the Roman Empire*,

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

Although we will try to follow the syllabus strictly, in some cases the schedule and the contents of the lectures and assignments may be changed so as to better fit the students’ needs and interests. Thus, it will always be the students’ responsibility to make sure what will be actually covered in class; if you miss a class, it is up to you to find out about the lecture, the assignment or the handout given out that day.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Meeting 1</td>
<td>Introduction to course and syllabus. Historical and Geographical Context: Greeks, Etruscans and Romans. The sources for Etruscan &amp; Roman History.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>Iron Age Italy: Villanovans and Etruscan Origins</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Villanovan Art and Culture in the proto-history of Italy: the most ancient period of Etruscan Civilization at the beginning of the First Millennium BCE.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Orientalizing Period and the rise of the Etruscan Cities. The Age of the Princes: the Cerveteri Tombs. Trade Connections between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean and with Greece: Cultural Transformations.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Etruscan Rome: The Etruscan Kings, political and social institutions. The birth of the city, its organization and monuments.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Crisis and Renewal: The Crisis of Tyrrhenian Etruria and the Rise of “Etruria padana” (on the Adriatic coast of Italy).</td>
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<td>9 - (Oct. 16)</td>
<td>Etruscan language (a real mystery?) What we know: alphabet, grammar and</td>
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| Week 6 | Meeting 10 | Etruscan art:  
Bucchero and painted pottery,  
metalworking, jewelry, sculpture.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------------|
|       | Meeting 11 | The Archaeological Museum of Florence  
SITE VISIT CLASS |
| Week 7 | Meeting 12 | Review class |
|       | Meeting 13 | MID-TERM EXAM |
| Week 8 | Meeting 14 | The mythical origins of Rome:  
the foundation legends,  
Romulus and the seven kings.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
|       | Meeting 15 | Etruscan and Roman Fiesole and the  
birth of Roman Florence.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
| Week 9 | Meeting 16 | The Republic:  
political institutions, Rome’s expansion  
and imperialism.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
|       | Meeting 17 | From Republic to Empire:  
Julius Caesar, Octavian, Marc Antony and  
the collapse of the Roman Republic.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
| Week 10 | Meeting 18 | From Augustus to Nero.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
|       | Meeting 19 | The Flavians.  
Life in the city of Pompeii and  
Herculaneum and the 79 AD eruption of  
Vesuvius.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
| Week 11 | Meeting 20 | The Antonines and the Golden Age of  
the Roman Empire.  
Required readings +  
supplementary readings to  
be assigned. |
|       | Meeting 21 | The Antonines and the Golden Age of  
Required readings +  

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<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Meeting 22</th>
<th>Life in ancient Rome: daily routine, entertainment and leisure.</th>
<th>Required readings + supplementary readings to be assigned.</th>
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<td>Meeting 23</td>
<td>Literature, art, architecture and the power of images in the Roman Empire.</td>
<td>Required readings + supplementary readings to be assigned.</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Meeting 24</td>
<td>The fall of the Roman Empire.</td>
<td>Required readings + supplementary readings to be assigned.</td>
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<td>Meeting 25</td>
<td>Review class</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Meeting 26</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (date to be announced)</td>
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