



CLAS/HIST 215: Roman Civilization and Daily Life Course Syllabus

Instructor: Giampiero Bevagna, Laurea

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: None

Class Hours: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Type: Standard Course

Lab Fee: 250 €

Course Description

How did an average citizen of a town in the Roman Empire live? What were his or her daily habits, duties and pleasures? Where did the typical male citizen work, how was family life organized, and, finally, what was the system of beliefs and values that guided daily life? In order to answer such questions we will follow the life of an ordinary Roman citizen in Pompeii, an ordinary, small city on the shores of the Mediterranean in Roman Italy during the first century AD.

Famous for being destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79 and uniquely preserved under feet of hardened lava, Pompeii and the neighboring towns are now one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Since their rediscovery in the 1700s, these cities have yielded tons of immensely valuable archaeological material: from remains of charred food to impressive ruins of public buildings; from written graffiti on the walls to rich art collections in individual houses. With all categories of material culture, Pompeii can provide us with an insight into social, political, religious, and commercial life in the ancient Roman world.

By tracing the footsteps of our hero – the typical male citizen – as he moves through his daily routine, we will explore the streets, homes, shops and public buildings of Pompeii and neighboring cities, such as Herculaneum. Through the things they left behind, we will learn about everyday life, and ultimately death, in the context of the ancient Roman world in general. Pompeii will serve as a microcosm for studying Roman society and culture. The overarching goal is to integrate archaeological, art historical, and primary literary material into a single, coherent intellectual narrative in order to gain a complex understanding of Roman Civilization at its height. In the end, the goal is to “look at the Romans through the eyes of the Romans.”

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures Course requirements that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome
examine both primary and secondary sources (examine how authors of different time periods and social backgrounds present key issues)	reading assignments, participation and oral presentation
illustrate and interpret the material remains (archaeological record) of the Roman culture	reading assignments, participation and oral presentation
estimate how Roman civilization influenced their culture, and, more generally, the development of world history	reading assignments, participation and oral presentation

Course Materials

Readings

Two course readers available at local copy shop. See "Umbra Institute Course Materials - Textbooks and Readers" handout provided in the orientation folder for more information.

Further Readings

Additional hand-outs will be provided in classes when needed.

Assessment

Participation	10%
Mid-term exam	15%
Quiz	10%
Final Exam	15%
Oral reports	50%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	

D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

Grades are based on:

Participation (10%)

Participation implies an active and constructive attitude from students in each class, especially when discussions are scheduled. The same is valid for the fieldtrip, where respectful and mature behavior is expected. Note also that participation in the guided visits at the archaeological museum of Perugia given by the students of the class of Archaeology during the Week of Special Academic Events is **mandatory** and will be taken into account.

Written Exams (40%)

The course includes a quiz (10%), a mid-term (15%) and a final (15%) examination. Items covered on each exam include lectures and readings (on the subjects discussed after the previous exam). Testing format will be multiple choice, T/F questions, map and glossary quizzes, short answer questions and short essays. Study guides will be distributed in advance.

Oral Reports (50%)

Each student will give THREE oral reports (10% + 20% + 20%). I will provide a list of topics, or you may choose your own as long as you receive advance approval from me. Topics will be also determined by the available bibliography in the Institute Library, and guidance will be given throughout. The choice of each student will be discussed with the teacher, in order to provide enough time to think about the research project to do a good job (without stress!). In any case, topics must be selected in agreement with the teacher to avoid too similar papers being done by more than one student. In cases where there are conflicts in topics, the teacher will choose the one(s) that is best prepared. Wikipedia and other online sources are not to be used unless I approve them first. Hand-outs and slideshows are requested.

More detailed guidelines will be provided.

Course Content Disclaimer

Some ancient art shows scenes of sexual intercourse or violent images.

Additional Course Information

Class sessions will be based on students **having read** the assigned material for class, either from primary sources

(what the Romans themselves wrote) or from secondary sources (what moderns have written about the Romans). Classes will be a combination of discussion and lecture, leaning more heavily to discussion when the readings are primary sources.

Sometimes, I will provide open-ended discussion questions before the class meeting. I hope the entire class will prepare answers to the discussion questions and be ready to discuss their answers during class. It is therefore important for everyone to consider the readings carefully, to put some thought into the questions, and to prepare preliminary answers before coming to class.

During class sessions we will study important examples of Roman/Pompeian monuments and pieces of art. These examples will help students to understand and visualize better the fundamental aspects of Roman history and culture. Students are expected to pay great attention to these examples in order to be able to interpret images of Roman civilization and provide an informed, detailed discussion.

Lectures will include material beyond the course readings for which students will be held responsible in the midterm and final exams. Therefore, it is critical for students to take notes, and class attendance is required.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **two “free” absences**, which do not need to be justified. **It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class)**. Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students’ grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. **Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason.** Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students' final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class. **Computers and other electronic devices** cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Introduction To The Course: The Sources Of Roman History. The Mediterranean Basin And Italy: Geography And Peoples. Vesuvius Area.

The Early History Of Italy: Italy And Pompeii Before The Roman Conquest.

Readings from Course Packet #1

Reading #1

- a) M. Ward, F. M. Heichelheim, C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016) 1-4
- b) M. Ward, F. M. Heichelheim, C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016) 7-10,
- c) M. Ward, F. M. Heichelheim, C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016) 11-27
- d) Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 1-10
- e) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 64-77

WEEK 2

Rome: The Conquest And Organization Of Italy.

Reading #2

Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 11-23

The Hellenization Of The Roman World.

Reading #3

- a) Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 24-63
- b) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town*, (Profile Books 2010) 26-37

WEEK 3

The Crisis Of The Republic: The Social And Civil Wars. The Roman Colony Of Pompeii.

Reading #4

- a) Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 64-71
- b) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town*, (Profile Books 2010) 38-43

Julius Caesar and Augustus: The Birth Of A New Rome.

Reading #5

Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 71-119

WEEK 4

The Julio-Claudians. The Flavians. Pompeii In The Roman Empire.

Reading #6

- a) Brian Campbell, *The Romans and their World. A Short Introduction* (Yale University Press 2012) 120-122, (123-126), 126-141
- b) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010) 43-52
- c) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 236-243

The Roman Society and the Roman Religion.

Reading #7

- a) M. Ward, F. M. Heichelheim, C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016) 40-48
- b) D. Frankfurter, "Traditional Cult," in D. S. Potter, ed., *A companion to the Roman Empire* (Blackwell 2006) 543-564
- c) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 86-91

WEEK 5

QUIZ

The Roman Calendar.

The Roman Citizen. Birth And Education. Women In Pompeii.

Reading #8

- a) T. Parkin, "The Roman Life Course and the Family," in B. Rawson, ed., *A companion to families in the greek and roman worlds* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011) 276-290
- b) V. Dasen, "Childbirth and Infancy in Greek and Roman Antiquity," in B. Rawson, ed., *A companion to families in the greek and roman worlds* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011) 291-314
- c) F. Bernstein, "Pompeian Women," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 526-537

WEEK 6

The Roman House. The Domus.

Reading #9

- a) P. M. Allison, "Domestic spaces and activities," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 269-278
- b) Jens-Arne Dickmann, "Space and Social Relations in the Roman West," in B. Rawson, ed., *A companion to families in the greek and roman worlds* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011) 53-72
- c) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 158-173

The Four Pompeian Styles. The Roman Villa.

Reading #10

- a) V. M. Strocka, "Domestic decoration: painting," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 302-322
- b) E. Moormann, "Villas surrounding Pompeii and Herculaneum," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 435-455

WEEK 7

Review

MIDTERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 8

Pompeii And Herculaneum: Urban Layout.

Readings from Course Packet #2

Reading #11

- a) R. Ling, "Development of Pompeii's public landscape in the Roman period," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 119-128
- b) C. W. Westfall, "Urban planning, roads, streets and neighborhoods" in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 129-139
- c) C. Chiaramonte, "The walls and gates," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 140-147

Politics. The Forum Of Pompeii.

Reading #12

- a) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010) 188-215

- b) J. J. Dobbins, "The Forum," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 150-183
- c) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 120-133

WEEK 9

Economy And Coinage. Commerce And Trade. Roman Food.

Reading #13

- a) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010) 152-187
- b) F. Pirson, "Shops and industries," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 457-473
- c) J. DeFelice, "Inns and taverns," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 474-486
- d) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 212-233

Religion In Pompeii. Religious Buildings and their Cult.

Reading #14

- a) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010) 276-309
- b) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 186-208

Fieldtrip To Pompeii

WEEK 10

Necropolises In Pompeii.

Reading #15

- a) S. Cormack, "The tombs at Pompeii," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 585-606
- b) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 92-99

The Roman Baths.

Reading #16

- a) G. G. Fagan, "Leisure," in D. S. Potter, ed., *A Companion to the Roman Empire* (Blackwell 2006) 369-384
- b) A. O. Koloski-Ostow, "The city baths," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 224-256
- c) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 150-153

WEEK 11

Life and Death. Pompeii and Herculaneum (documentary)

Spectacles And Entertainments: Theatre and Gladiatorial Combats.

Reading #17

- a) D. S. Potter, "Spectacle," in D. S. Potter, ed., *A companion to the roman empire* (Blackwell 2006) 385-408
- b) C. Parslow, "Entertainment at Pompeii," in J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007) 212-223
- c) M. Beard, *Pompeii, The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010) 253-275
- d) J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii* (Thames & Hudson 2007) 134-149

WEEK 12

EASTER MONDAY: NO CLASS

Death By The Vesuvius.

Reading #18

J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii*, (Thames & Hudson 2007) 18-34

WEEK 13

The Roman Empire (documentary)

Final review

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester.

Mandatory guided visit at the museum of Perugia (date and time TBA)

Bibliography

- C. S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome. A military and political History*, (Cambridge UP 2004)
- D. S. Potter, ed., *A companion to the Roman Empire* (Blackwell 2006)
- J. Berry, *The Complete Pompeii* (Thames & Hudson 2007)
- J. J. Dobbins, P. W. Foss, eds., *The World of Pompeii* (Routledge 2007)
- L. Adkins, R.A. Adkins, *Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome* (Oxford UP 1994)
- M. Beard, *Pompeii. The Life of a Roman Town* (Profile Books 2010)
- M. T. Boatwright, D. J Gargola, N. Lenski, *A Brief History of the Romans* (Oxford UP 2013)
- M. Ward, F. M. Heichelheim, C. A. Yeo, *A History of the Roman People*. 6th ed., (Prentice Hall 2016)
- B. Rawson, ed., *A Companion to Families in the Greek and Roman Worlds* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011)