

Florida Atlantic University

ARH4153: Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Origins of Art History

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:50PM, A&L-189

Prerequisites: ARH 2050 and ARH 2051 or permission of the department.

Instructor - B.E. McConnell, A&L-136, x7-3646, mcconnel@fau.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00AM – 1:00PM, or by appointment.

Course Description

This course focuses on the unique legacy of Roman antiquity left by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on A.D. 79. A thorough study of Pompeii will be made in the context of a survey of other sites (e.g. Herculaneum and Stabia), which have been discovered around the Bay of Naples. In-depth examination of public and private architecture, wall-painting and other craftsmanship, as well as inscriptions and literary sources will serve to portray the political, economic and artistic activities of typical Roman towns and countryside villas of the early imperial period and the lives of those who lived in them. The significant impact that these specific sites had upon the development of art, the theory of Art History, and Archaeology as a discipline from the time of their discovery in the eighteenth century to the present day will also be a focus of the course. This course qualifies for the Classical Studies certificate in the College of Arts & Letters.

The format of this course offers significant opportunity for discussion of specific topics and in-depth examination of specific buildings, archaeological materials and scholarly theories. Assigned readings from a variety of sources will be made for each meeting, and written and oral assignments in addition to those listed in the syllabus will be made during the course of the semester (see below). Participation, including attendance and engagement in classroom discussion will be calculated in the final grade.

Required Books

Cooley, A., *Pompeii, A Sourcebook*, Routledge, ISBN 0-415-26212-7; here *Cooley*.

Pellegrino, C., *Ghosts of Vesuvius: A New Look at the Last Days of Pompeii*, Harper Collins, ISBN 0-380-97310-3; here *Pellegrino*.

Boime, A., *Art in an Age of Revolution, 1750-1800, A Social History of Modern Art, Volume I*, The University of Chicago Press, 0-226-06332-1; here *Boime*.

Requirements

- n.2 in-class examinations (slides, terms, short answers: 15% each)
- n.2 take-home essays to be coordinated with the examinations (15% each)
- short research or creative project with 6-8 pp. written text (20%).
- class attendance and participation (20%).

Attendance Policy and Useful Tips

Inasmuch as class attendance will be considered in the participation portion of the final grade, a sign-in sheet will be posted for selected classes. In order to be counted as present in class, you must sign this sheet (retroactive or joint signatures are not acceptable). It is not acceptable to sign the sheet for other sections of this same course. Excused absences (for

personal reasons or to represent FAU at sporting and other such events) must be communicated to the instructor in advance (except for exceptional circumstances) with appropriate documentation. Please keep up with the readings for each class – the subject is vast, and it really is not possible to catch up just before an examination.

Honor Code Policy Statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 at: http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Students with Disabilities

DISABILITY POLICY STATEMENT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in -- Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - LA 240 (954-236-1657), in Jupiter - SR 110 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 117 (772-873-3382), and follow all OSD procedures.

Weekly Topics and Assignments (apart from required books all materials are on reserve in Wimberly Library).

Week of Tuesday, August 23. Introduction – The Disaster of A.D. 79 and its Legacy; Geology and Cultural History of the Bay of Naples.

Readings: *Pellegrino*, Chapters 6-7; H. Sigurdsson, et al., "The Eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79, Reconstruction from Historical and Vulcanological Evidence," *American Journal of Archaeology*, 86 (1982) pp.39-51.

Week of Tuesday, August 30. Pompeii – development of the town structure.

Readings: *Pellegrino*, Chapters 1-2.

Week of Tuesday, September 6. Public Buildings at Pompeii.

Readings: *Pellegrino*, Chapters 3-4.

Week of Tuesday, September 13. Private Buildings at Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Readings: *Pellegrino*, Chapters 5 and 8.

Week of Tuesday, September 20. Gardens and Landscape Architecture, Villas along the Sorrentine Coast.

Readings: *Boime*, Chapter 1; B. Bergmann, "Painted Perspectives of a Villa Visit:

Landscape as Status and Metaphor," ch. 2 in E. Gazda, *Roman Art in the Private Sphere*.

Week of Tuesday, September 27. Wall Painting I.

Readings: V. Bruno, "Antecedents of the Pompeian First Style," *American Journal of Archaeology*, 73 (1969) pp.305-317.

Week of Tuesday, October 4. Wall Painting II and Mosaics.

Readings: *Boime*, Chapter 2.

Week of Tuesday, October 11. Silver-plate, Ceramics and Glass.

Readings: *Boime*, Chapter 3; *Pompeii A.D. 79*, pp.108-109 (also browse catalog and illustrations); *Rediscovering Pompeii*, pp. 171-221 (browse catalog).

Week of Tuesday, October 18. The Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum.

Readings: *Boime*, Chapter 4; *Pellegrino*, Chapter 8; J.J. Deiss, *Herculaneum, Italy's Buried Treasure*, Chapters 7 and 18.

Week of Tuesday, October 25. The Writing on the Wall.

Readings: *Boime*, Chapter 5; *Grant*, Chapter 8; J.L. Franklin Jr., "Game and Lupanar. Prosopography of the Neighborhood in Ancient Pompeii," *The Classical Journal* 81 (1986) pp.319-328.

Week of Tuesday, November 1. Pompeiana, Angelica Kauffmann and other painters of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Readings: N. Ramage, "Sir William Hamilton as Collector, Exporter, and Dealer: The Acquisition and Dispersal of His Collections," *American Journal of Archaeology* 94 (1990) pp.469-480; N. Ramage, "Goods, Graves and Scholars: 18th-Century Archaeologists in Britain and Italy," *American Journal of Archaeology* 96 (1992) pp.653-661; D. Schreiner, "The Many Faces of Angelica Kauffmann," *Intellect*, March 1976, pp. 440-447.

Week of Tuesday, November 8. Student project presentations.

Week of Tuesday, November 15. Pompeii as a literary theme.

Reading: W. Jensen, *Gradiva* (selections), E. Bulwer-Lytton, *The Last Days of Pompeii* (selections), R. Harris, *Pompeii* (selections).

Tuesday, November 22. Pompeii in Music and Film; showing: *The Last Days of Pompeii* (1909).

Reading: *Pellegrino*, Chapters 9-10.

Tuesday, November 29. What shall we do with the Cities of Vesuvius?

Reading: *to be announced*.

Tuesday, December 6. Class meets for return of graded projects 1:15 - 3:45pm.