

CLST 305

Archaeology of the Etruscans and Early Romans (Fall)

Instructors

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Course Description

The course deals with the development of Etruscan and Roman cultures in the context of central Tyrrhenian Italy, from Late Bronze Age (10th Century BC) to Late Republic (second to mid-first century BC), and with their mutual and continuously renewed relationships. The integration of many aspects and features of Etruscan culture into the Roman one are basic for the development of Rome and the progressive formation of a largely common culture of central Italy, quickly and widely expanded after the Roman conquest of the peninsula. This Italian Middle Republican tradition was transformed in the Late Republican period as a result of the momentous social and economic transformations of the Roman society and the impact of new models from mainland Greece and the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Each student will write a paper (10 pages, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) on a topic chosen from a list supplied by the instructor.

Required Texts

Sybille Haynes, *Etruscan civilization: a cultural history* (Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum: 2000)

- [Get it at the Campus Bookstore](#)
- [Get it on Amazon.ca](#)

Nancy H. Ramage, Andrew Ramage, *Roman Art* (Upper Saddle River, NJ, Pearson 1991 and following editions, ch. 1-2).

- [Get it at the Campus Bookstore](#)
- [Get it on Amazon.ca](#)

Useful information can be found in the following books (not required):

Etruscan culture

- Mario Torelli (ed.), *The Etruscans* Catalogue of an exhibition held at the Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Nov. 26, 2000 - July 1, 2001, New York, Rizzoli, 2001.

Iron Age, Archaic and Republican Rome

- Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli, *Rome, the centre of the power. 500 B.C. to A.D. 200*, New York, Braziller, 1970.
- R. Ross Holloway, *The archaeology of early Rome and Latium*, London - New York, Routledge, 1994.
- Timothy J. Cornell, *The Beginnings of Rome. Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars (c. 1000-264 BC)*, London - New York, Routledge 1995.
- Christopher John Smith, *Early Rome and Latium. Economy and Society c. 1000 to 500 BC*, Clarendon Press, Oxford-New York 1996
- Fred S. Kleiner, *A History of Roman Art*, Belmont, CA, Thomson Wadsworth, 2007, pp. 1-59.

Marking Scheme

- Paper - **30%**
- Midterm Exam - Oct 23 - **35%** (slide identification, short answers, longer answers)
- Final Exam - **35%** (slide identification, short answers, longer answers)

As it is not a course that closely follows a textbook, attendance is very important for understanding and importance.

Class Schedule

Week 1

Sept 15

- Course presentation.
- Etruscan and Roman origins: ancient and modern perspectives.
- Central Italy between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age: from the "Appennine Culture" to the formation of the Iron Age cultures of Central Italy.
- Chronology of the Italian Iron Age.

Sept 18

- Iron Age Rome and Latium.

Week 2

Sept 22

- The "Villanovan" culture and its development; the emergence of an aristocracy.
- Long and medium distance trade.
- From villages to cities: the urban development in central Italy.

Sept 25

- The gentilician society.
- The "Orientalizing" period in Italy and the Mediterranean; Etruscan and Latin "princes": the social function of luxury.

Week 3

Sept 29

- Funerary customs in Etruria and Latium.
- Burial as a rank display.

Oct 2

- The "Hellenization" of Etruscans and Romans: Greek myth in Etruria and Latium.

Week 4

Oct 6

- Craftsmen, artists and patrons in the Orientalising period.

Oct 9

- The Archaic period: the rise of a "middle class" and its archaeological evidence.

Week 5

Oct 13

- The aristocratic palaces and the ideology of power.

Oct 16

- The early sanctuaries between cult and trade: the Forum Boarium, Pyrgi and Gravisca.
- The painted tombs of Tarquinia from 6th to 5th century B.C.

Week 6

Oct 20

- *Paper title due*
- The fifth century "crisis" in Etruria, Latium and Rome. (Livy 5.36.3).
- Early Republican Rome: historical tradition and archaeology of the Roman "Dark Age".

Oct 23

• ***MIDTERM EXAM***

Week 7

Oct 27

- The fourth century: Rome and Etruria between war and integration; the "new Republics" of Latium and Etruria; the Roman and Etruscan solutions to the struggle of the orders. Public buildings and politics.

Oct 30

- The "Middle-Italian" artistic common language.

Week 8

Nov 3

- Etruscan wall painting of the 4th century.

Nov 6

- Rome in Etruria, three case-studies: Cosa, Volsinii, Caere.

Week 9

Nov 10

- The Roman Middle Republic

Nov 13

- The Late Republic: Rome as a Mediterranean power; Hellenistic architects in Italy

Week 10

Nov 17

- *Revixit ars*: the artistic choices and models of the Roman ruling class.

- The construction of Roman classicism and the Hellenistic models of the Italian local elites.

Nov 20

- The making of Roman Italy: Romanization and self-Romanization.
- Culture and politics in Late Republican public buildings: the Late Republican sanctuaries of Latium and the pediments of the late Etrusco-Italic temples.

Week 11

Nov 24

- The making of Roman Italy: Romanization and self-Romanization. Some case studies
- The Hellenistic period in Etruria: social struggles and Roman protectorate.
- "Princes", servants and "new citizens": historical and archaeological evidence.

Nov 27

- *PAPER DUE*
- The Roman society between public austerity and private luxury.
- Wall painting, houses and their decoration.

Week 12

Dec 1

- The problem of Roman art: changing language and long-lasting features.
- Etruria and Italy after the Social War.

Dec 4

- The Etruscan legacy in the Roman culture.