



## **HCL 450 - ITALY BEFORE ROME: Etruria and the Etruscans**

FALL 2018-19 Monday-Wednesday, 11:30-12:50

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Office hours: Wednesday, 10,30-11,30 or by appointment - CSU Library.

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Contents: What happened in Italy before the birth of the Roman civilization?**

Before Rome there were **the Etruscans**, a mysterious but surprisingly also incredibly modern culture that **inspired the ancient Roman world** and through it our contemporary times. Using a 21<sup>st</sup> century perspective as well as archaeological evidence this course deciphers the mysterious origins of the **most ancient and fascinating inhabitants of Italy** and establishes incredible **links to the present**.

**The course focuses on history, culture, society, religion, art, literature and daily life of 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.

Defining the basic events of their history and the value and influence of their culture in Italy before the rise of Rome will reveal the origins of many aspects of Western European culture and of modern Western society in general.

**CSU GE category: D5**

Method: Illustrated lectures. Research documents for the students (bibliography, graphic materials, synopsis of the course, and color slides). Regular attendance is highly recommended, given the visual nature of the course.

Classes and lectures will be held **in English**.

**As Tuscany (Italy) is the homeland of the Etruscans, the course is supplemented by visits, field trips and on site learning activities.**

Teaching methods include:

- ✓ Lectures and class discussion;
- ✓ Assigned readings and class discussion;
- ✓ Web researches;
- ✓ Video;
- ✓ Students-led seminars and students' presentations;
- ✓ In-class group activities;
- ✓ Practical demonstrations of Etruscan craftsmanship in the workshop of a Florentine artist;
- ✓ Museums and sites visits.

### **REQUIRED BOOKS / READINGS:**

#### **To buy:**

S. HAYNES, *ETRUSCAN CIVILIZATION. A CULTURAL HISTORY*, GETTY PUBL., 2005.

On reserve in CSU Florence library. Library session tba.

Costs and location for purchasing the textbook: 51,58 Eur on [www.bookdepository.com](http://www.bookdepository.com) and [www.amazon.it](http://www.amazon.it) (also used).

#### **Downloads:**

assigned readings for each class will be shared by the instructor on Dropbox or posted on CSU website.

Students are expected to collect any additional materials/photocopy distributed in class by the instructor and to consider it as part of the program, to be tested during exams.

Additional readings and web resources may be given during the semester.

### **GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. *Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.*

### CLASS SITE VISITS

**Visits to museums and other institutions and sites are included in this course and you are required to attend all of them.** 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.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 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 the history of the Etruscans, as one of the greatest 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 this ancient civilization.
- 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 society and use it as a means of interpreting the human experience through history.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of particular social practices and cultural systems as constructed by the ancient Etruscan society.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to engage people living in today's societies through knowledge of the cultural heritage left by ancient Etruscan civilization.
- Demonstrate openness to difference and critical reflection when encountering values and beliefs that are different from their own.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the general value of ancient history and culture as a means of interpreting human experience and the origins of contemporary societies.
- Identify possible causes and consequences of significant historical events of the Etruscan civilization and demonstrate knowledge of the origins of many aspects of the European culture and of contemporary Western societies.
- Explain processes of change over time as well as historical continuity within a chronological and geographical framework.

- Understand and formulate historical argument, discussion and reasoning, evaluate historical evidence, and assess historical interpretations.

### **GRADES AND EXAMS**

Your grade will be determined by **2 in-class exams (mid-term and final)**, on **2 papers, 1 oral presentation, attendance and class participation**, proportionally broken as follows:

Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Papers	20% <b>The deadlines for the papers are Dec. 17 and Feb. 6.</b>
Class Participation	20% (Class participation, attendance, class site visits, field trip oral presentation)

<b>100-94</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>93-90</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>89-88</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>87-83</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>82-80</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>79-77</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>76-73</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>72-69</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>68-67</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>66-63</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>62-60</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>59 and below</b>	<b>F</b>

*A Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*B Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*C Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*D Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

*F Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester. Late work lowers 1 letter grade.

**You must complete ALL requirements for this course.**

### **CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messag-

ing, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

### **Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/or the Resident Director for more information.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**CSU Policy 2018-2019 (for classes that meet twice a week):**

**Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory.** Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers 1 letter grade; **FOUR** unexcused absences, lowers 2 letter grades; **FIVE** unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades.

**More than FIVE unexcused absences could result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

### **Important: Exams**

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. **Dates of mid-term and final exams can not be changed.** Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

**Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in failure of the course.**

### **COPYRIGHT AND PRIVACY LAWS**

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

**In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.**

### **CHANGES**

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **CLASS CALENDAR**

Class		Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	Nov. 5	<p><i>General Introduction to the course</i></p> <p><b>A Brief History of Etruscology</b></p> <p>Modern Etruscology: basic methodology and principals of archaeology (chronology, dating systems, analytical methods)</p>	Maps, materials & slides shared on Dropbox
	Nov. 7	<p>The <b>Geographical Context</b> of the Etruscans</p> <p>Famous sites and ongoing digs</p>	Maps, materials & slides shared on Dropbox
Week 2	Nov. 12	<p><b>Identifying the Etruscans:</b></p> <p>Origins of the Etruscan People and Civilization through archaeological evidences, literature and legends.</p> <p>The Etruscans as seen by ancient Greek and Latin authors: legends, myths and historical sources</p>	<p><b>Haynes</b>, Chap. 1, 1-5.</p> <p><b>Barker G. - Rasmussen T.</b>, "Origins", Chap. 2, 43-60, 80-84.</p> <p><b>Briquel D.</b>, "The Origins of the Etruscans: a Controversy handed down from Antiquity", in Torelli, 43-51.</p>
	Nov. 14	<p><b>Villanovan Art and Culture</b> in the proto-history of Italy: the most ancient period of Etruscan Civilization at the beginning of the First Millennium BCE.</p> <p>The pre-urban times: settlements and buildings.</p> <p>Cemeteries and beliefs on death.</p> <p>Evidence for Religious Practice</p> <p><b>Introduction to the visit at the Archaeological Museum.</b></p>	<p><b>Haynes</b>, Chap. 1, 5-46.</p> <p><b>Bartoloni G.</b>, "The Origin and Diffusion of Villanovan Culture", in Torelli, 53-71.</p>
	<b>Nov. 16</b> <b>FRIDAY</b>	<p><b>Visit to the National Archaeological Museum of Florence (9:30-12:30).</b></p> <p><b>Entrance Fee € 4,00</b></p>	

<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Nov. 19</b>	<b>Villanovan Age:</b> International Contacts: Commerce, Trade and Foreign Affairs Art and technological achievements: metalworking, pottery, etc. Society and daily life - The Woman's Role.	<b>Haynes</b> , Chap. 1, 5-46.  <b>Rallo A.</b> , "The Woman,s Role", in Torelli, 131-139.
	<b>Nov. 21</b>	The <b>Orientalizing Period</b> and the Emergence of the Etruscan Cities/Civilization. Trade Connections between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean and with Greece: Cultural Transformations. <b>The Etruscans and the Sea:</b> commerce, navigation and ships. Etruscans as expert seafarers of the ancient Mediterranean.	<b>Haynes</b> , Chap. 2.  <b>Barker - Rasmussen</b> , "Cultural Transformations", Chap. 4, 117-140.
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Nov. 26</b>	The <b>Orientalizing Period:</b> The Etruscan Aristocracy in the Orientalizing Period: the Age of the Princes Culture, Economy, Relations.	<b>Haynes</b> , Chap. 2.  <b>Naso A.</b> , "The Etruscan Aristocracy in the Orientalizing Period: Culture, Economy, Relations", in Torelli, 111-129.
	<b>Nov. 28</b>	The <b>Orientalizing Period:</b> From Village to Town: architecture, social organization, institutions and religious beliefs. Most important Etruscan cities: society, art, daily life, peculiarities and monuments. The Necropolises: cities of Dead - Monumental Burials. Local Pottery and Vase Painting.	<b>Haynes</b> , Chap. 2.
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Dec. 3</b>	The <b>Archaic Period: Etruscan high point</b> trade and territorial expansion. Cities: Political Forms in the Archaic Period - Etruscan Domestic Architecture.	<b>Haynes</b> , Chap. 3.  <b>Menichetti M.</b> , "Political Forms in the Archaic Period", in Torelli, 205-225.

	<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>The Archaic Period:</b> <i>Emporia</i> and harbors. <b>The Etruscans and the Sea:</b> evolution of Etruscan navy. Navigation and piracy as a means of political and economic power.	
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>The Archaic Period</b> Tombs: Life, Cult and Afterlife. Tarquinia painted tombs. Sanctuaries: Etruscan pantheon.	<b>Haynes, Chap. 3.</b>  <b>Barker - Rasmussen, "Life, Cult and Afterlife", Chap. 7, 216-261."</b>
	<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>The Archaic Period</b> Archaic art. Bronze mirrors: how Greek mythology arrived in Etruria.	<b>Haynes, Chap. 3.</b> Bonfante L., Swaddling J., <i>Etruscan Myths</i> . London and Austin, TX: British Museum Press and the University of Texas Press, 2006.
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	Mid-term Review <b>Deadline for mid-term papers.</b>	
	<b>Dec. 19</b>	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Dec. 21- Jan. 6, 2018</b>		<b>WINTER BREAK</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries</b> Developments in Rome: From Tarquins to Caesars - Etruscan rule at Rome. Cities: Political Forms & Urban organization.	<b>Haynes, Chap. 4.</b>

	<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries</b> Most important cities Religious + Funerary Art and Architecture	Haynes, Chap. 4.
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries</b> Crisis of Tyrrhenian Etruria and Rise of "Etruria padana" (on the Adriatic Shore of Italy).	Haynes, Chap. 4.
	<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>The Hellenistic Period: Third to First Century</b> The Hellenization of Etruria: Tombs, Sarcophagi and Urns; Religious Art and Architecture.	Haynes, Chap. 5. <b>Torelli M.</b> , "The Hellenization of Etruria", in Torelli, 141-155.
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>The Hellenistic Period: Third to First Century</b> Romanization (The Absorption by Rome): The fall of Etruscan Cities; Etruria under the dominion of Rome.	Haynes, Chap. 5. <b>Barker - Rasmussen</b> , "Romanization", Chap. 8, 262-296.
	<b>Jan. 23</b>	Students' oral presentations	
	<b>Jan. 25</b> <b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Visit to the archaeological area and museum in Fiesole (9.30 - 13)</b> <b>Reduced fee € 6,00</b>	
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Jan. 28</b>	Students' oral presentations	
	<b>Jan. 30</b>	<b>Etruscan language</b> What we know: alphabet, grammar and reading. Recovered texts, lost texts, etc.	Haynes, Chap. 2, 64-71.

<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>Etruscans outside Etruria</b> Evidences and influences of Etruscan civilization in Italy and abroad. <b>The Etruscan Legacy</b> Perceptions of the Etruscans from the Renaissance to Modern Times. Etruscan Italy Today.	
	<b>Feb. 6</b>	Final Review <b>Deadline for final papers.</b>	
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Feb.11-14</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (date and time to be announced)	