

## Summer 2018

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### Venice and the Classical Past

**HARC S-148**

#### **Course Description**

Venice is without doubt the largest and best known modern Italian city that did not grow on top of a classical settlement. Ever since the Middle Ages, Venetian statesmen and intellectuals supported the idea that their hometown was born from the ashes of the Roman Empire, thus remarking the city's political independence ever since its alleged foundation. At the same time, however, numerous objects dating to the classical period, including both artworks and simple building materials, could and can still be found in Venice and in the main islands of the surrounding lagoon.

This course has two main aims. On the one hand, through the analysis of ancient documents (literary texts, inscriptions, archaeological data and visual sources) students will understand what the Venice area looked like before the city's growth. On the other, they will also explore the shifting relationship that Venice developed with the Greco-Roman past, investigating in particular how classical antiquities were chased, studied, used, and re-used in Venice and in the Venetian territories. In the first part of the course, we will combine classroom lectures, on-site classes, and fieldtrips to different locations in and around Venice (museums, churches, public spaces), in order to get a real experience of the presence of antiquities in the city and in the surrounding islands. In the second part of the course, students will present and discuss their own work, based on the reading of Patricia Brown's quintessential book *Venice and Antiquity* (1996), the only comprehensive survey of this topic that has been published so far, and on further and more recent literature that will be provided individually.

#### **Prerequisites**

None; an essential understanding of Latin will be useful, but the language basics necessary to reach course requirements will be covered in class.

#### **Required readings**

- Brown Fortini Patricia (1996), *Venice and Antiquity: The Venetian Sense of the Past*, Yale (downloadable online).

#### **Course Pack with selected readings (mandatory):**

- Ammerman Albert J. (2003), *Venice before the Grand Canal*, «Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome» 48, 141-158.
- Ammerman Albert J. et alii (2017), *Beneath the Basilica of San Marco: New Light on the Origins of Venice*, «Antiquity» 91, 1620-1629.
- Ando Clifford (2016), *The Changing Face of Cisalpine Identity*, in *A Companion to Roman Italy*, ed. A. Cooley, Oxford, 271-287.

- Barry Fabio (2010), *“Disiecta membra”*: Ranieri Zeno, the Imitation of Constantinople, the Spolia Style, and Justice at San Marco, in *San Marco, Byzantium, and the Myths of Venice*, eds. H. Maguire & R. Nelson, Washington DC, 7-62.
- Beltrán Lloris Francisco (2015), *The Epigraphic Habit in the Roman World*, in *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Epigraphy*, eds. Ch. Bruun & J. Edmonson, Oxford - New York, 131-148.
- Braccesi Lorenzo (2004), *The Greeks on the Venetian Lagoon*, in *Greek Identity in the Western Mediterranean*, ed. K. Lomas, Leiden, 349-361.
- Bruun Christer (2015), *Roman Onomastics*, in *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Epigraphy*, eds. Ch. Bruun & J. Edmonson, Oxford - New York, 799-805.
- Calvelli Lorenzo (2011), *Da Altino a Venezia*, in *Altino antica. Dai Veneti a Venezia*, ed. M. Tirelli, Venice, 185-189.
- Calvelli Lorenzo (2015), *A New Legionary Epitaph from Venice*, «Sylloge Epigraphica Barcinonensis» 13, 87-100.
- D'Agostino Marco, Medas Stefano (2010), *Roman Navigation in Venice Lagoon: the Results of Underwater Research*, «The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology» 39, 286-294.
- Findlen Paula (2005), *The Market and the World: Science, Culture, and Collecting in the Venetian Republic*, in *Il collezionismo a Venezia e nel Veneto ai tempi della Serenissima*, eds. B. Aikema, R. Lauber & M. Seidel, Venice, 55-68.
- Greenhalgh Michael (2009), *Marble Past, Monumental Present: Building with Antiquities in the Mediaeval Mediterranean*, Leiden – Boston, 421-439.
- Lomas Kathryn (2007), *The Ancient Veneti. Community and State in Northern Italy*, in *Ancient Italy. Regions without Boundaries*, eds. G.J. Bradley, E. Isayev & C. Riva, Exeter, 21-44.
- Nelson Robert (2007), *High Justice: Venice, San Marco, and the Spoils of 1204*, in *Byzantine Art in the Aftermath of the Fourth Crusade*, ed. P. Vokotopoulos, Athens, 143-151.
- Nelson Robert (2010), *The History of Legends and the Legends of History. The Pilastrini Acritani in Venice*, in *San Marco, Byzantium, and the Myths of Venice*, eds. H. Maguire & R. Nelson, Washington DC, 63-90.
- Perry Marilyn (1978), *Cardinal Domenico Grimani's Legacy of Ancient Art to Venice*, «Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes» 41, 215-231.
- Purcell Nicholas (1990), *The Creation of Provincial Landscape: the Roman Impact on Cisalpine Gaul*, in *The Early Roman Empire in the West*, eds. T.F.C. Blagg & M. Millett, Oxford, 6-29.
- Ruskin John (1853), *The Stones of Venice, II, The Sea Stories*, London, 27-55.
- Smith Christopher (2017), *Cultural Exchange in Northern Italy*, in *Scritti per il decimo anniversario di Aristonothos*, ed. S. Struffolino, Milan, 171-206.
- Stouraiti Anastasia (2014), *Collecting the Past: Greek Antiquaries and Archaeological Knowledge in the Venetian Empire*, in *Re-imagining the Past: Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture*, ed. D. Tziouvas, Oxford, 29-46.

### Recommended further readings

- *Le pietre di Venezia. Spolia in se, spolia in re* (2015), eds. M. Centanni & L. Sperti, Rome.

## Grading

Participation	20%	<i>This part of the grading will be evaluated based on the demonstration of having done the readings, willingness to answer questions, and attention and response to classmates. Students are expected to behave properly in class: eating and drinking are not allowed. Cell phones are not allowed. Active participation is highly recommended. Readings must be done in advance so as to stimulate lively debates in class.</i>
Classroom presentations	40%	<i>All students will be asked to give a 20-minute presentation on a subject related to the course</i>
Final Paper	40%	<i>The final paper should develop critically one of the topics of the course (approved by the instructor), based on individual readings, the lectures, and the class discussions. It should be 8-10 pages long, double spaced, font 12 Times New Roman. The essay will be evaluated based on criteria of consistency, in-depth analysis, critical thinking, and clarity.</i>

**NB:** Master's students (studenti a livello magistrale) and all other students at graduate level will be given extra work for grading purposes.

### Policies and procedures

Attendance is required and considered as part of the grading. *Any absence must be registered by the CFHSS office (email [cafoscari-harvard@unive.it](mailto:cafoscari-harvard@unive.it) ). All work submitted for this course must be the student's own and must follow proper citation procedures. All students are required to read in advance the policies on "**Plagiarism and Collaboration**" in the Handbook for Students at <http://hord.me/iXiaLD>. Please familiarize yourself with the **Guidelines for Using Sources**: <http://bit.ly/cQK9A3>*

*Other guides to reading, writing, and research are available on the course website: <http://hord.me/yYGeJy>*

## Seminars

		<b>DATES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION. THE "CORNER OF THE VENETI"</b>	
Readings	Lomas 2007; Braccesi 2004	<b>Tue 26 June</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>On-site class: ROMAN SPOLIA IN MURANO</b>	
Readings	Ruskin 1853, 27-55; Beltrán Lloris 2015; Bruun 2015	Thu 28 June
<b>3</b>	<b>THE ROMANS IN NORTHEASTERN ITALY</b>	
Readings	Purcell 1990; Ando 2016; Smith 2017	<b>Tue 3 July</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>On-site class: VENICE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM</b>	
Readings	Perry 1978; Findlen 2005	Thu 5 July
<b>5</b>	<b>FROM ROME TO BYZANTIUM: THE "BIRTH OF VENICE"</b>	
Readings	Ammerman 2003; D'Agostino - Medas 2010; Ammerman <i>et alii</i> 2017	<b>Tue 10 July</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>On-site class: INSCRIBED SPOLIA IN VENICE</b>	
Readings	Calvelli 2011; Calvelli 2015, 88-90	Thu 12 July
<b>7</b>	<b>REUSING AND COLLECTING ANCIENT STONES</b>	
Readings	Greenhalgh 2009; Stouraiti 2014	<b>Tue 17 July</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>On-site class: ST MARK'S SQUARE AND PALAZZO GRIMANI</b>	
Readings	Barry 2010; Nelson 2007; Nelson 2010	Thu 19 July
<b>9</b>	<b>STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Tue 24 July</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>	Thu 26 July
<b>11</b>	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Tue 31 July</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>	Thu 2 August