

Summer 2019

Time: Tue/Thu 9:45am-12:15pm

Classroom: MF4

Instructor: Lorenzo Calvelli, Ca' Foscari University

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Ancient Rome and Venice: the classical past and its legacy

HARC S-148

Course Description

While the natural resources of the brackish shallow waters and muddy sandbars of the Venetian lagoon have been known and deployed by humans at least since the first millennium BCE, Venice can be considered the most important Italian city, whose urban development did not occur on top of an ancient Roman settlement. Once the city began to flourish in the early Middle Ages, local statesmen and intellectuals supported the idea that their homeland grew from the ashes of the Roman Empire, thus fostering the narrative of Venice's everlasting political independence from any other form of government. The fiction of a geographic and political distance from the ancient world was incongruously paralleled by the massive physical presence of objects dating to the Roman times, including both artworks and plain building materials, which could be spotted all over the city and the surrounding islands, and are still visible today.

This course will explore the shifting relationship of Venice with the ancient Roman world through a double methodological lens. On the one hand, it will focus on the Greek and Roman primary documents (literary texts, inscriptions, archaeological data and visual sources), which help us reconstruct the history of the Venetian region from the first millennium BCE to late antiquity, the time when the alleged birth of Venice took place. On the other hand, it will investigate how classical antiquities were approached, chased, studied, exhibited, used, and re-used following the rise of Venice from local to Mediterranean power. This will be done through outdoor classes that will take place in 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 nearby lagoon. Students will be challenged to work simultaneously on different cultural periods, in order to understand how the notion of the past is a shifting one, whose uses may be adapted according to distinct historical circumstances.

Prerequisites

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

Required readings (this short and general introduction to the history of Venice should be read the week before the beginning of the course):

Ortalli Gherardo, Scarabello Giovanni (1999), *A Short History of Venice*, Ospedaletto (Pisa): Pacini.

- **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 al. (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.
- Busana Maria Stella (2018), *Fishing, Fish Farming and Fish Processing during the Roman Age in the Northern Adriatic: Literary Sources and Archaeological Data*, «Regional Studies in Marine Science», 21, 7-16.
- 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.
- Mozzi et al. (2016), *The Roman City of Altinum, Venice Lagoon, from Remote Sensing and Geophysical Prospection*, «Archaeological Prospection», 23, 27-44.
- 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 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.

Vickers Michael (1990), *Wandering Stones: Venice, Constantinople and Athens*, in *The Verbal and the Visual: Essays in Honor of William S. Heckscher*, eds. K.-L. Selig & E. Sears, New York, 225-242.

Recommended further readings

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

Grading

Class participation	20%	<i>This part of the grading will be evaluated based on individual engagement, willingness to answer questions, and attention and response to classmates. Classroom sessions and fieldtrips are likewise important and interaction with the instructor and with the other course participants is highly recommended. Students who are reluctant to speak up, please talk to the instructor and the TA. Students are expected to behave properly in class: eating and drinking are not allowed, if not during breaks. Laptops, tablets and cell phones are welcome in class, but not for social media. Pen, paper and plain human intelligence are equally encouraged.</i>
Readings and short presentations	20%	<i>From week 2, each student will be required to give a 10-minute presentation on one of the readings, in order to develop a critical approach to scientific literature. All students are likely invited to do the readings in advance, so that they may interact with the presenter and stimulate lively debates in class.</i>
Midterm exam	25%	<i>A midterm exam will take place at the end of week 4. Students will be asked questions about the research methodology developed during the first weeks of the course. They will also be required to comment on some of the ancient primary sources, which were presented to them in previous classes, as well as to sketch an impromptu analytical review of a new document.</i>
Final Paper	35%	<i>The final paper should develop critically one of the topics of the course, based on individual readings, the lectures, and the class discussions. Papers may either be based on the critical reassessment of a section of Patricia Brown's quintessential book <i>Venice and Antiquity</i> (1996), or on a specific research topic. In both circumstances, they must be approved by the instructor and the TA. Papers 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).*

All work submitted for this course must be the student's own and must follow proper citation procedures. You are responsible for understanding Harvard Summer School policies on academic integrity (<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/policies/student-responsibilities>) and how to use sources responsibly. Not knowing the rules, misunderstanding the rules, running out of time, submitting the wrong draft, or being overwhelmed with multiple demands are not acceptable excuses. To support your learning about academic citation rules, please visit the Resources to Support Academic Integrity (<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources-support-academic-integrity>) where you will find links to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources and two free online 15-minute tutorials to test your knowledge of academic citation policy. The tutorials are anonymous open-learning tools.

The Summer School is committed to providing an accessible academic community. The Accessibility Offices at both Harvard and Ca' Foscari Universities offer a variety of accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/resources-policies/accessibility-services>

<https://www.unive.it/pag/28640/>

Seminars

		DATES
1	USES OF THE PAST: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR WORKING WITH PRIMARY ANCIENT SOURCES	Tue 25 June
Readings	Beltrán Lloris 2015; Bruun 2015; Calvelli 2015, 88-90	
2	THE "CORNER OF THE VENETI"	Thu 27 June
Readings	Braccesi 2004; Lomas 2007	
3	THE ROMANS IN NORTHEASTERN ITALY	Tue 2 July
Readings	Purcell 1990; Ando 2016; Smith 2017	
4	On-site class: MURANO	Thu 4 July
Readings	Ruskin 1853, 27-55	
5	THE ROMAN SETTLEMENTS OF ALTINUM AND AQUILEIA	Tue 9 July
Readings	Mozzi <i>et al.</i> 2016; Busana 2018	
6	On-site class: THE "ANCIENT" STONES OF VENICE (longer class: starts 8.45)	Thu 11 July
Readings	Vickers 1990; Nelson 2007	
7	NO CLASS	Tue 16 July
Readings		
8	MIDTERM EXAM	Thu 18 July
Readings		
9	LATE ANTIQUITY AND THE "BIRTH OF VENICE"	Tue 23 July
Readings	Ammerman 2003; D'Agostino - Medas 2010; Ammerman <i>et al.</i> 2017	
10	On-site class: ST MARK'S SQUARE AND PALAZZO GRIMANI (longer class: starts 8.45)	Thu 25 July
Readings	Barry 2010; Nelson 2010	
11	REUSE AND SPOLIA; VENETIAN ANTIQUARIAN COLLECTIONS	Tue 30 July
Readings	Greenhalgh 2009; Stouraiti 2014	
12	On-site class: MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE DI VENEZIA	Thu 1 August
	Findlen 2005; Perry 1978	