

Summer 2019

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Ancient Roma and Venice: the Classical Past and its legacy

HARC S-148

Course Description

While the area of the Venetian lagoon has been highly frequented and exploited since the first millennium BCE, Venice can be considered the most important Italian city that did not grow on top of an ancient Roman settlement. Once the city began to develop in the early Middle Ages, local statesmen and intellectuals supported the idea that their hometown was born from the ashes of the Roman Empire, thus promoting their political independence from any earlier form of government. Such ideological distancing from the ancient world was oddly paralleled by a massive physical presence of objects dating to the Roman times, including both artworks and plain building materials, which could be found in and around Venice and are still visible today.

This course will explore the relationship of Venice with the ancient Roman world through a double methodological lens. On the one hand, it will focus on the primary sources that help us reconstruct the history of the Venetian territory from the first millennium BCE to the time when Venice became a leading power in the Mediterranean Sea. On the other hand, it will investigate how classical antiquities were approached, reused, and exhibited in Venice and in the territories of the Venetian empire from the Middle Ages onwards. The course will combine class lectures 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.

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). 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

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