**History 4262, Summer 2018**
8Wk1 session (travel during 3Wk1 Maymester)

**The Roads of Roman Italy**

Silvio De Santis (Silvio.DeSantis@unt.edu)  Christopher Fuhrmann (cfuhrmann@unt.edu)
405b Foreign Language, x4515  264 Wooten Hall, x4527

The best way to contact us is via email. Put “Italy program” somewhere in the subject line.

**Course Description.**

This class entails an intensive study abroad program in southern Italy (including Pompeii) from May 13/14 – May 22, 2018. It offers a rich historical experience of southern Italy’s vibrant culture, from antiquity to the present, via personal encounters with the land, its people, and material history. This travel course will focus particularly on the ancient Roman road system, especially the “Queen of Roads,” Via Appia (Appian Way); we will visit major sites along its itinerary, starting with its easternmost terminus on the Adriatic Sea. Just as “all roads lead to Rome,” we will work our way northwest to the eternal city. This course is offered in conjunction with a follow-up class (HIST 3762: Biography of a City) based in Rome itself (May 23-June 2).

Students will learn about the practicalities of ancient travel and roadways, the imperialist element of Roman road-building, and the great tradition of Roman civil engineering. The Bay of Naples component of the program provides unparalleled insight into daily life in ancient Italy that cannot be duplicated in Rome itself, with the Roman ruins around Mt. Vesuvius. The content will not be entirely ancient, however, since Italy offers the historically-minded student such a wonderful mixture of historical treasures from different eras, inextricably woven together. So students whose main interests lie in later periods (medieval, Renaissance, modern) are most welcome, too. In addition to a brief exam, travel journal, and an on-site oral report, each student will conduct an individualized research project culminating in a research paper to be completed within five weeks after the program.

Previous experience in courses such as AEAH 2350/2360/4803/4806 or HIST 1050/1060/3760/4220 is recommended but not required. For History majors, this class is a group B credit. It counts for the Classical Civilization minor and the Medieval & Renaissance Studies Certificate; it might be applied to other interdisciplinary minors (e.g. Jewish Studies, Religion Studies) depending on the student’s research project and consultation with both the instructors and the relevant advisors.

**Textbooks:**

We will provide you with further readings and handouts, such as Horace’s first-century account of travel on the Appian Way, and Pliny’s description of Vesuvius’s deadly eruption in 79 AD. Each student will need to bring a durable notebook for the journal requirement (see below).

How your grade will be determined:

Exam, covering Aldrete, Laurence, and other readings: 15%
On-site report: 20% of your final grade
Journal: 10%
Participation: 25%
Final paper(s): 30%

Final grades will be evaluated as follows, based on percent-averages of your grades:
100-90=A (excellent) 89-80=B (good) 79-70=C (mediocre) 69-60=D (poor) >60=F (fail)

Further details:

Exam (15%): In mid May, just after our arrival in Italy, you will take a multiple-choice test covering Aldrete and Laurence’s brief books, and selected primary source readings. The test questions are targeted towards major figures, events, and “big picture” developments.

On-site report (20%): BEFORE departure, each student participant will choose one significant site from the daily schedule below, and conduct independent research for an oral report at the site. Each student will need to show Drs. De Santis or Fuhrmann a presentation outline and produce any necessary handouts by the time we depart from the U.S. The co-teachers will provide further guidance for on-site reports at the Spring 2018 organizational meetings.

Journal (10%): During the course of the travel portion of the class, you will see scores of different sites. Consequently, it is imperative that you keep a journal in order to keep track of the various places we visit. Otherwise, it will be extremely difficult to complete the final paper portion of your grade.

Participation (25%). The program is intensive. Some days we will be out studying sites for twelve hours. You are expected to participate in all required group activities, make appropriate comments in discussion, and maintain proper comportment. In general, you should be engaged, occasionally ask or answer questions, and follow the golden rule: treat us and your classmates as you would want to be treated. And please be mindful that we will be academic ambassadors of our country and our state.

Final paper(s) (30%, due in July at the end of the Summer 8Wk1 term): The final paper project will be a multi-part work, which will consist of three parts:

1. Final site report: incorporate first-hand impressions into a written version of your field report. What did you learn or realize about your site when you were actually there, that you found particularly striking or surprising? Furthermore, in what ways did the other sites we visited provide enlightening context for your site? What other sites were particularly relevant to yours? You will need to provide a full bibliography for this part of your paper. (5-7 pp.)

2. A research paper, which discusses some aspect of Roman/Italian culture or history from “the big picture.” Topics and guidelines will be discussed at the pre-departure meetings. (12-14 pp.)
3. A general review of the program: what you found most interesting, ways the program could be improved, etc. (1 -2 pp.)

**March, April, May 2018:** Organizational meetings will be scheduled to provide general overview, travel guidelines, and introduction to UNT Study Abroad Center services.

**May 12:** Outlines for on-site reports due (email to both co-teachers, and bring two paper copies)

---

**Tentative itinerary:**

N.B. All itineraries in Italy are tentative; there can (and most likely will) be some changes. Unforeseeable circumstances may compel us to move things around when we get to Italy.

**Sunday, May 13:** You will fly individually from Dallas, arriving overnight to Rome-Fiumicino (FCO) on the morning of May 14; we will rendez-vous as a group in FCO, and board a regional flight to Bari, where we will be based for the first four days of the program. Accommodations in Bari TBA.

**Day 1: Monday, May 14:** Hotel check-in and brief early-evening excursion to get our bearings in the old quarter of Bari, and its **Piazza della Libertà** (“Liberty Square”). Bari was the end-point of Emperor Trajan’s extension of the Via Appia ca. 100 AD. Bari was important in the early 1800s as the royal seat of Napoleon’s brother-in-law, and has grown to be a busy regional center. It is the capital of the Puglia region.

**Day 2: Tuesday, May 15:** Bari

Today we focus on Bari itself, especially its important medieval churches such as **San Nicola**.

**Day 3: Wednesday, May 16:** Day trip to Brindisi.

Brindisi was the most important, final terminus of the ancient Appian Way. Then and now, it’s a major port center and jumping-off point to Greece (remember that so many Greeks lived in southern Italy, the Romans called the whole region **Magna Graecia** or “Great Greece.”)

Major sites: Roman column marking the end of the Via Appia; many good medieval sites such as the Castello Grande and the **Duomo** (cathedral); also, the fascist-era monument to Italian seamanship.

**Day 4: Thursday, May 17:** Day trip to Matera
Today we travel to the neighboring region of Basilicata, to see the famous (and still inhabited) pre-historic cave homes of Matera. The town’s unique setting has made it a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the backdrop for many movie scenes, from *The Passion of the Christ* to *Wonder Woman*.

Day 5: Friday, May 18: Benevento

Today we leave our hotel in Bari for the Bay of Naples; on the way, we stop at the important Roman town of Beneventum, an early terminus of the Via Appia. Important sites abound: The Arch of Trajan, Roman theater, and the Lombard church (another UNESCO World Heritage Site) of Santa Sofia.

Evening of May 18, we check into our hotel near Sorrento, just south of Naples:

Mami Camilla
Via Cocomella 4 - 80065
Sant’Agnello di Sorrento, Italy
Tel: +39 081 8782067

Day 6: Sat. May 19th: Pompeii

Pompeii: Roman town buried by Mt. Vesuvius in 79AD, beautifully preserved as one of the grandest archaeological sites in the world. Site reports could include the amphitheater (scene of a riot in Nero’s reign), temple of Isis, as well as several shops, brothels, and houses.

Day 7: Sun. May 20th: Naples (and Pozzuoli)

Today we’ll spend the day in Naples and have our first taste of real pizza in the city that invented it. We will see the cathedral, and most of all, the great National Archaeological Museum which holds archaic Greek antiquities as well as most of the paintings and goods from Pompeii (i.e., there are several potential site reports here). If there is time, we might take a tour of the tunnel system under Naples. More importantly, we will head to the important Roman port of Puteoli (modern Pozzuoli), which has one of the best preserved amphitheaters (the underground galleries where gladiators prepared for their big moment are particularly well preserved.)
Day 8: Mon. May 21st: Open Day, no required activities. Faculty leaders will take any interested students to Herculaneum (Ercolano), a well-preserved but smaller city that met the same fate as Pompeii. Students will also have a chance to take a bus up to Mt. Vesuvius, where they can climb the summit. Here Spartacus gathered an army of runaway slaves that threatened Rome itself in the late 70s BC.

Day 9: Tuesday, May 22: **Capua**

Capua was the original terminus of the Via Appia. It was once the second greatest city of ancient Italy, and still houses one of the most intact and fascinating ancient amphitheaters (only a little smaller than the Colosseum in Rome). None other than Spartacus served as an enslaved gladiator in this city; a gladiator museum here attests this legacy.

Wednesday, May 23: Early train to Rome!

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
If you cheat or commit any other act of academic dishonesty, you fail the course, or worse. Your papers must be individual endeavors (though I encourage you to use the Writing Center). We are particularly determined to prevent WEB PLAGIARISM. If you cut and paste from the web on for any class assignment, and fail to credit your source, we will do everything in our power to have you expelled from the university. See [www.unt.edu/csrr/academic_dishonesty.htm](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/academic_dishonesty.htm) for more information.

**ADA STATEMENT:**
We fully intend to comply with the American Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. However, students with special needs must do two things: first, they must successfully apply for services with UNT’s Office of Disability Accommodations ([http://www.unt.edu/oda/](http://www.unt.edu/oda/)); second, they must take initiative in communicating with us so that we can help provide the necessary accommodations.

*** The instructors reserve the right to alter this syllabus, which is still in draft form. ***