

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## HCL 450 Etruscology

### Spring Semester 2010

Prof. Giulia Péttena

Monday-Wednesday 11:30-12:50

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contents: The course focuses on the archaeological evidence of Etruscan civilization: history, society, religion, art and literature, daily life as we know today from the archaeological findings in relation to literary and legendary sources.

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

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be evaluated on the basis of two in-class examinations (mid-term and final), on a paper, attendance and class participation, proportionally broken as follows:

Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Paper	25%
Class Participation	15%

The mid-term exam and the final exam will be organized in the same way and each will be composed of three parts: an essay, shorts answers (on the required readings) and short definitions/identifications. Students are required to write one term paper (6 page, font: arial, double space). The dead-line for the paper is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance to the course is compulsory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade (excused absences will be accepted for

serious medical reasons or emergencies) as follows: 3 unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; 4 unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; 5 unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. More than **five unexcused absences will 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.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Use of the computer in class is not allowed, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is not allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on *silent mode* during class.

## REQUIRED READINGS

A packet of readings from the following books:

- G. Barker - T. Rasmussen, *The Etruscans*, Oxford-Malden 1998.
- O.J. Brendel, *Etruscan Art*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.
- T.J. Cornell, *The Beginning Of Rome*, London-New York 1995.
- M. Pallottino, *The Etruscans*, London 1975.
- H.H. Scullard, *The Etruscan Cities And Rome*, London-Southampton 1967.

## SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

- Sybill Haynes, *Etruscan Civilization*. Getty Publ., 2005.
- R. Leighton, *Tarquinius: an Etruscan city*, London 2004.
- D. e F. Ridgway, *Italy before the Romans*, London 1979.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Feb. 22      *General Introduction to the course*

### A Brief **History of Etruscology**

Modern Etruscology: basic methodology and principals of archaeology  
(chronology, dating systems, analytical methods)

- Feb. 24      The **Geographical Context** of the Etruscans  
Famous sites and ongoing digs
- Mar. 01      **Identifying the Etruscans:**  
Origins of the Etruscan People and Civilization through archaeological evidences, literature and legends.  
The Etruscans as seen by ancient Greek and Latin authors: legends, myths and historical sources
- Mar. 03      **Villanovan Art and Culture** in the proto-history of Italy: the most ancient period of Etruscan Civilization at the beginning of the First Millennium BCE:  
The pre-urban times: settlements and buildings  
Cemeteries and beliefs on death  
Evidence for Religious Practice
- Mar. 08      **Villanovan Age:**  
International Contacts: Commerce, Trade and Foreign Affairs  
Art and technological achievements: metalworking, pottery, etc.  
Society and daily life - The Woman's Role
- Mar. 10      **NO CLASS today due to S. Italy field trip**
- Mar 15      The **Orientalizing Period** and the Emergence of the Etruscan Cities/Civilization:  
Trade Connections between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean and with Greece: Cultural Transformations  
Navigation and ships
- Mar. 17      The **Orientalizing Period:**  
The Etruscan Aristocracy in the Orientalizing Period: the Age of the Princes  
Culture, Economy, Relations
- Mar. 22      The **Orientalizing Period:**  
From Village to Town: architecture, social organization, institutions and religious beliefs  
Most important Etruscan cities: society, art, daily life, peculiarities and monuments
- Mar. 24      The **Orientalizing Period:**  
The Necropolis: cities of Dead – Monumental Burials

Local Pottery and Vase Painting

Mar. 29           **The Archaic Period** and the Flowering of the Etruscan Cities:  
 Etruscan high point: trade and territorial expansion  
 Archaic art  
 Bronze mirrors: how Greek mythology arrived in Etruria

Mar. 31           *Mid-Term Exam*

**APRIL 2 – 11 SPRING BREAK**

Apr. 12           **The Archaic Period:**  
 Cities: Political Forms in the Archaic Period - Etruscan Domestic Architecture  
*Emporia* and harbours

Apr. 14           **Visit to National Archaeological Museum of Florence**

Apr. 19           **The Archaic Period:**  
 Tombs: Life, Cult and Afterlife  
 Sanctuaries: Etruscan pantheon

Apr. 21           **Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries**  
 Developments in Rome: From Tarquins to Caesars - Etruscan Governance at Rome  
 Cities: Political Forms & Urban organization

Apr. 26           **Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries**  
 Most important cities  
 Religious + Funerary Art and Architecture

Apr. 28           **Crisis and Renewal: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries**  
 Crisis of Tyrrhenian Etruria and Rise of “Etruria padana” (on the Adriatic Shore of Italy)

May 03           **The Hellenistic Period: Third to First Century**  
 The Hellenization of Etruria:  
 Tombs, Sarcophagi and Urns  
 Religious Art and Architecture

May 05           **The Hellenistic Period: Third to First Century**  
 Romanization (The Absorption by Rome):  
 The fall of Etruscan Cities

Etruria under the dominion of Rome

May 10

**Etruscan language**

What we know: alphabet, grammar and reading

Recovered texts, lost texts

May 12

**Visit to National Archaeological Museum of Florence**

May 17

**Etruscans outside Etruria**

Evidences and influences of Etruscan civilization in Italy and abroad

May 19

**Visit to the archaeological area and museum in Fiesole (Faesulae)**

May 24 or 26

***Final Exam*** (to be announced)