



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri
Email: gazzarrt@union.edu ✉
Class meets: Daily (see schedule) 10:15 AM -11:15 AM
Location: Populonia Archeological Museum (Italy, EU)
Office: Lamont House #305 (when on campus)
Office hours: by appointment
Mailbox: Dept. of Classics

Description of the course: Introduction to Etruscology

Introduction to the site

Populonia, or “the city of *Fufluns*”, god of wine and lust, was the only city of the Etruscan “league of the twelve” to have been established directly on the coast. This privileged location fostered, over the centuries and well after the Roman conquest, both the development of a vast net of commercial traffic (especially with the islands of Sardinia and Corsica) and the activities of a number of metallurgical workshops. If the heyday of the settlement occurred during the VI century BCE, it was not until the I century BCE that Populonia’s slow decline began. In the successive centuries, what were by then Etrusco/Roman communities moved away from the original settlements and colonized other areas equipped with natural defenses, such as “Poggio del Molino.”

The Roman villa at “Poggio del Molino” is currently the center of an international digging campaign. The dwelling was already inhabited during the I century BCE when it served as a center for the production of *garum* (the ill-famed fish sauce favored by the Romans) and, in the III century CE, was eventually transformed into a high-end residence, equipped with thermal baths and decorated with lush mosaics. By the time of the Longobard invasion, in the VII century CE, the villa, which had been abandoned in the IV century CE, was in full decline and was mostly used as a hospice for shepherds.

Organization of the Classes

In this course, we trace the history of the ancient city of Populonia through two touchstones: the city itself with its collective areas (acropolis, necropolis, and harbor) and the private residence of “Poggio del Molino.” Each day will be evenly divided into two halves. The mornings will be devoted to theory, with one class of Etruscology taught at

the Etruscan Museum of Populonia and one lab session held directly on the excavation site. The afternoons will be entirely devoted to archaeological practicums, consisting of a series of activities ranging from first-hand excavation to the exploration of four main Etruscan and Roman sites. The early morning segment will cover all fundamental aspects of Etruscan history and civilization, while the late-morning labs will concern three main areas: 1) Excavating techniques, 2) Ancient pottery, and 3) Roman Glass 4) Conservation/restoration. The site of the “Poggio del Molino” will provide the students with the unique opportunity of acquiring real archaeological experience and implementing highly specific professional skills such as excavation techniques, cleaning and conservation of ancient artifacts, mapping and stratification, and positing a scholarly relationship between material artifacts and literary/historical data. The mini-term will be completed with two weekend field trips, respectively to Rome and Pisa/Florence, where the students will have the opportunity to experience the bewildering variety of Italian culture and to survey some fundamental archaeological sites, such as the *Ara Pacis*, the Roman Forum, and the Colosseum. There will also be three additional daily trips, respectively to the Mines of San Silvestro, the Archaeological Museum of Piombino, and the Necropolis of Banditaccia (Cerveteri).

Excavating is a demanding, energy-consuming physical activity. It requires acumen, accuracy, endless patience, and physical endurance. Excavating for 3 or 4 hours consecutively may be exhausting. Please be mindful of this physical component of the mini-term.



Recommended texts (not mandatory)

The Class materials - chiefly the PowerPoint Presentations are available in this shared Google folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lf-AQ98ctDOuJYAj-iTSRGRsDLP4xRboD?usp=share_link

- 👤 Bonfante L., and Swaddling J. *Etruscan Myths*. Austin, 2003.
- 👤 Haynes S. *Etruscan Civilization: A Cultural History*. Oxford, 2014.
- 👤 Smith C. *The Etruscans: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, 2014.
- 👤 Spivel N. J. *Etruscan Art*. London, 1997.

Instructors

- Tommaso Gazzarri, Yale University Ph.D. - Union College
- Carolina Megale, Ph.D. - Università degli Studi di Firenze - Director of the Excavation - Director of the Archaeological Museum of Rosignano - Member of Aglaia Association
- Martina Fusi, Ph.D. - Università degli Studi di Firenze - Member of Aglaia Association
- Alessandro Fonti, Art Conservator - Opificio delle Pietre Dure di Firenze - Member of Aglaia Association

SIGLA

<u>PAA</u>	Poggio all'Agnello (resort/hotel)
<u>PC</u>	Populonia Castle (seat of the ancient acropolis and the Etruscan Museum)
<u>PEM</u>	Populonia Etruscan Museum (site of morning classes)
<u>PDM</u>	Poggio del Molino (excavation site)

STRUCTURE OF A STANDARD DAY:

(This structure applies to all days of the mini-term, except when we are traveling)

BLUE = MORNING ACTIVITIES

GREEN = AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- *  09:30–9:50 PAA > PC (Buca delle Fate)
- *  10:15-11:15 PEM - Morning class on Etruscology (Gazzarri)
- *  11:30-11:45 PC > PDM
- *  11:45-13:00 (01:00 pm) Excavation/archaeological labs (staff)
- *  13:00 (01:00 pm)-14:00 (02:00 pm) Lunch break
- *  14:00 (02:00 pm)-16:30 (04:30 pm) Excavation/archaeological labs (staff)
- *  16:40 (04:40 pm)-16:50 (04:50 pm) PDM > PAA
- * **DINNER IS SERVED FROM 19:30 UNTIL 20:00**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Preliminary Classes: (Taking place on campus, during the Spring-term preceding the mini-term)

- **CLASS 1: Orientation #1** - 03/30/26 at common h, Karp 105
- **CLASS 2: Orientation #2** - 04/20/26 at common h, Karp 105
- **PARENTS ORIENTATION** (on Zoom) - 04/09/26 at 18:00 h (06:00 pm)

On-site Schedule:

Day #1 (Sat.) 06/20/26	* Afternoon: students arrive and settle at PAA * 18:30: Orientation meeting - PAA * 19:30: Welcome dinner
Day #2 (Sun.) 06/21/26	* Visit to the Castello di Populonia (lunch at the Castello) * Free Afternoon
Day #3 (M.) 06/22/26	* Presentation of Syllabus. The origins of the Etruscans * Introduction to the excavation site
Day #4 (Tu.) 06/23/26	* Visit to the Necropolis * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #5 (W.) 06/24/26	* The origins of the Etruscans (continued) and The Etruscans and the foundation of Rome * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #6 (Th.) 06/25/26 SAN SILVESTRO AND TEMPERINO MINES	* Daily trip to Parco Minerario of San Silvestro. Visit to: (a) Ancient Medieval Miners Village, (b) Etruscan mines (c) 19th century mine.
Day #7 (F.) 06/26/26	* The ancient sources and the Etruscans * Excavation/Archeo-Lab

Day #8 (Sat.) 06/27/26	* Visit of the Acropolis * Free afternoon > Get ready/pack for Rome
Day #9 (Sun.) 06/28/26	* Train trip to Rome + lunch at the Hotel * Visit to: Quirinale, Fontana di Trevi, Montecitorio, Pantheon, <i>Ara Pacis</i> ROME <i>You are free for dinner</i>
Day #10 06/29/26	* Visit to San Pietro and the Vatican * <i>(lunch around Piazza di Spagna - you pick your place!)</i> * Visit to: Roman Forum and Colosseum ROME <i>You are free for dinner</i>
Day #11 06/30/26	* Visit to Museo Nazionale (optional), or you rest or you have a free morning ROME * Train back to Populonia
Day #12 07/01/26	* Political organization of the Etruscans * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #13 07/02/26	* Etruscan economy and trade * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #14 07/03/26	* Train trip to Pisa (leaving at 09:32am) + lunch at restaurant in Pisa * Visit to: Street art, Medieval and 19th c. Pisa, Teatro Verdi, Jewish Temple, Gipsoteca universitaria, Piazza dei Cavalieri, Piazza dei Miracoli, Chiesa di San Nicola. PISA AND FLORENCE <i>You are free for dinner</i>
Day #15 07/04/26	* Daily Train trip to Florence + <i>pick up lunch at Mercato San Lorenzo</i> * Visit to: S. Maria Novella, Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza del Duomo, Accademia, Ponte Vecchio e Lungarni. * Train back to Pisa PISA AND FLORENCE <i>You are free for dinner</i>

Day #16 07/05/26 PISA AND FLORENCE	* Visit to Museo delle Navi Romane <i>Pick your lunch</i> * Train back to Populonia
Day #17 07/06/26	* Etruscan warfare * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #18 07/07/26	* Visit to Museo archeologico di Piombino * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #19 07/08/26	* Guest lecture on Tanquil (Prof. Karen Klaiber Hersh - Temple University) * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #20 07/09/26	* Etruscan Society and Religion * Excavation/Archeo-Lab
Day #21 07/10/26	* End of Program - leave digging site and dormitories - Students take train to Rome
September 9th	* final project due.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Conduct

Attendance is crucial in an intensive mini-term. In general, absences cannot be excused except in documented emergencies.

It is possible to make up missed work, but not missed classes or events. The only exceptions to this rule are **documented medical and family emergencies**.

Culturally appropriate conduct is essential in a foreign country. When one travels to a foreign country, one should be open to new experiences and the opportunities to learn that they provide, but one must also never forget that one travels as a guest in a place where the social rules may be different. Students represent not only themselves, but also Union College. Perceptions of our collective character are shaped by the behavior of individual members of our group. Strive to represent us well.

Under no circumstances will excessive drinking or any associated disruptive behavior be tolerated.

Active participation is necessary for engaged learning. In addition to attending all events, you will be evaluated on how well informed you are and how actively you participate.

No late arrival to Populonia or early departure back to the US will be permitted beyond the dates stipulated in the program, except in the case of a medical emergency.

Late Work

Sick? Run out of time? These things happen, but if you wish to have the opportunity to make up work without penalty, you must contact your instructors ahead of time and make arrangements. Unexcused late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Just remember that these things will be much easier to determine if discussed in advance.

General Education Requirements

This course satisfies LCC & HUM Requirements.

Honor Code

Union College aims to establish an environment of mutual trust as part of its

educational mission. Membership in an academic community requires respect for and proper acknowledgement of the thoughts and work of others. Enrollment in this course signifies implicit agreement with the Academic Honor Code of Union College. The full text of Union's Honor Code may be found online at <<http://honorcode.union.edu>>. In short, it is the responsibility of all students to ensure that the work they submit is their own and does not engage in any form of academic misconduct. Students should ask the course instructor to clarify any questions they may have regarding collaboration, citation, plagiarism, or related matters. *Ignorance is no excuse for violating accepted standards of academic integrity.*

Students must also affix the full Honor Code Affirmation or an appropriately abbreviated version to any assignment submitted for a grade or in-class exam:

I affirm that I have done my academic work honestly.

Signed: _____

Grading (Assessment)

- Attendance, culturally appropriate conduct, and active participation are mandatory.
 - 30% attendance
 - 30% active participation in both classes and excavations
 - 40% Final paper project
- Do you want to **calculate your grade**? Go to: <http://apps.mercer.edu/registrarcalc/weightedaverage.html>

Final Project (due Sept. 9th)

Your final project entails creating an archaeological journal, a task that remains a cornerstone of professional archaeological practice. You are required to journal daily, dedicating at least three handwritten pages each day to the following sections:

1. A summary of the morning Etruscology class.
2. A summary of the afternoon excavation.
3. Cultural observations about your experiences in Europe.

Given that the term spans 21 days (20 days excluding the arrival day), an optimally crafted journal will comprise 60 pages (= 3 pp. x 20 days).

The primary objectives of this project are to cultivate cultural awareness and curiosity, establish a culturally relevant daily practice, reflect on both the ancient world and contemporary European

society, and revive the practice of handwriting and reflective thinking. Your evaluation will not focus on the accuracy of your entries but on your consistency in maintaining a daily journaling schedule and the overall richness of your final product.

The number of pages you produce will determine the grade of your final project (which contributes 40% of your final grade).

For instance, let's suppose you have completed 42 pages - then the final project component of your final grade will be worth 70 (since 42 is 70% of 60, which is the total number of expected pages).

Grading Scale



A 100
(commendation letter)

A 95-99

A- 90-94



B+ 87-89

B 84-86

B- 80-83



C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-73



D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

ADA Requirements

It is Union College policy to make accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you have any disability or special concerns, please let me know your needs so they may be accommodated. All discussions will remain confidential to the extent permissible by law.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must also:

- (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
- (2) Present documentation from the Dean of Students Office indicating what academic accommodations you require. This should be done within the first two weeks of the term.

For more information about services available to Union College students with disabilities, please contact the Dean of Students Office.