

**ARTH 699 Section 002 CRN 76373 "Pompeii: Rediscovery and Recreation"****Professor: Carol Mattusch [mattusch@gmu.edu](mailto:mattusch@gmu.edu)****Office: Robinson Hall B, room 373A.****No phone: History and Art History number 703-993-1250.****Monday 4:30pm-6:30pm, Ripley Center room 3113**

The rediscovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum during the 18th century yielded an unprecedented flow of antiquities from around the Bay of Naples. The finds were owned by Charles VII of Bourbon, king of Naples and Sicily, who had his ancient paintings, sculptures, luxury arts, and implements put on display and published in magnificent volumes - with illustrations by leading artists of the day. The publicity fueled a rage for "Pompeiana" in Europe, Britain, and America, a style that wielded extraordinary influence over arts and design through the 19th century. The Pompeian style even appears in such unexpected places as the Senate Appropriations conference room in the U.S. Capitol.

Topics will include the politics behind rediscovery, presentation, and ownership, and the reception and integration of Pompeian designs and artifacts into the cultural fabric of the 18th and 19th centuries, from palaces to country houses to public buildings to opera-sets and pyroclastic displays in Europe and North America.

There will be a **field trip** to the U.S. Capitol on Oct. 14 or 28 (yet to be decided).

All **assigned readings** are to be read in advance of the date for which they are assigned. Please come prepared to discuss those readings. In addition to the books below, you will need to find print or on-line versions of the additional readings assigned.

Each week I will designate individuals to **summarize and lead the discussion** of that week's readings. If you'd like to switch with somebody, that's fine, but let me know.

**Short reports:**

For each week I have listed report topics: please sign up for a total of two reports. These short reports need not be more than 5 minutes long, and you should cover only what is relevant to the subjects under discussion in this course. There are plenty of extras, but if you are interested in a topic that isn't listed and that you would prefer to talk about, let me know. If you have problems finding sources, I can help.

**Your paper:** you may choose a topic that relates to one of your short reports or something else altogether. You may choose to write a paper or describe a design for an exhibition. In either case, your research should include some primary 18th- and/or 19th-century documents and reference to specific buildings, monuments, or artifacts. and present their work in the form of reports accompanied by research papers or exhibition designs.

**Books to buy:**

- Alison E. Cooley, *Pompeii*, Duckworth 2003 pb. ISBN 0-7156-3161-6.  
 Théophile Gautier, *My Fantoms*, NY Review of Books 2008. ISBN 978-1-59017-271-1.  
 Judith Harris, *Pompeii Awakened: A Story of Rediscovery*. NY: Tauris 2007. ISBN 978-1-84511-241-7.  
 Johann Joachim Winckelmann, *Letter and Report on the Discoveries at Herculaneum*, ed. C. Mattusch. Los Angeles 2011. ISBN 978-1-60606-051-3.

**Other good resources:**

- Harold Acton, *The Bourbons of Naples (1734-1825)*, 1957  
 Adolf Michaelis, *Ancient Marbles in Great Britain*, 1882  
*Dictionary of Art* on line or hard copy in Reference, GMU libraries  
 JSTOR articles on line  
 Ian Jenkins and Kim Sloan, *Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton and his Collection*, 1996  
 Christopher Parslow, *Rediscovering Antiquity: Karl Weber and the Excavation of Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabiae*, 1995 (pb 2011)  
 Francis Haskell and Nicholas Penny, *Taste and the Antique*, 1981  
 Mattusch, *The Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum*, 2005  
 Thorough library catalogues on line: National Gallery of Art, DC; Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles  
 On-line translations of ancient texts: Fordham University; *Perseus*

**Tentative schedule of classes:**

Aug. 29. Introduction and background. What was the good life like in Pompeii?

**Wed., Aug. 31, 3:30-5 p.m. Optional lecture: Alexander Nagel, Assistant Curator of Ancient Near Eastern Art, and Sarah Johnson, Smithsonian Intern, [Colossal Casts, Traveling Archives and the Disappearance of an Empire: Encounters with the Ancient World in Washington DC, 1851-2011](#). Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Conference Room, 1050 Independence Avenue SW.**

Sept. 5. Holiday.

Sept. 12. **Class will meet today in the Commons room, Smithsonian Castle.**

The Bourbons of Naples.

Read: Cooley, chapters 1 – 3; Harris, chapters 1 and 4;

Discussion leaders:

Cooley

Harris

Short-report topics - Bourbon architecture and display:

Palazzo Reale

Capodimonte  
 Caserta  
 Portici  
 The opera-house in Naples  
 The Albergo dei Poveri (home for orphans) in Naples

Sept. 19. Rediscovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum.  
 Read: Cooley, chapters 4, 5, 6; Harris chapters 2 and 3.

Discussion leaders:

Cooley  
 Harris

Sept. 26. Fame; the official Bourbon publications and exhibition of finds.  
 Read: Winckelmann, *Letter* and *Report*; Harris chapter 5.

Discussion leaders:

*Letter*  
*Report*  
 Harris

Oct. 3. Neapolitan Culture. Charles, Ferdinand, William Hamilton, Emma Hamilton,  
 Read: Harris, chapter 6; Suetonius, "Nero", in *Lives of the 12 Caesars* (there are many translations available); Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio*, a chapter of his *Satyricon* (there are many translations of this too).

Discussion leaders:

Harris ch. 6  
 "Nero"  
 Trimalchio

Short-report topics:

The Golden Mile – villas from Naples to Portici  
 Susan Sontag, *The Volcano Lover*  
 Emma Hamilton's "Attitudes"  
 Horatio Nelson and Emma

Oct. 10. Holiday. Class will **not** meet on Oct. 11.

**READ Barbara Wolanin, *Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol, Washington, DC, 1998*: by Oct. 14: on line <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/brumidi/index.html>**

**Friday, Oct. 14 or Oct. 28. 3:15: arrive at Security, north entrance of U.S. Capitol for tour of Brumidi frescoes with Barbara Wolanin, Curator.**

Oct. 17. Artists in Naples.

Read: Harris ch. 7.

Discussion leader:

Harris ch. 7

Short-report topics:

Angelica Kauffman  
 Anton Raphael Mengs  
 Pierre-Jacques Volaire  
 Pietro Fabris

Oct. 24. The English and Pompeii

Read Harris, ch. 10

Discussion leader:

Harris ch. 10

Short-report topics:

Richard Payne Knight  
 William Gell  
 Society of the Dilettanti  
 Thomas Hope  
 Owen Jones  
 Flaxman  
 Wedgwood  
 Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema

**Friday, Oct. 28 or Oct. 14. 3:15: arrive at Security, north entrance of U.S. Capitol for 3:30 tour of Brumidi frescoes with Barbara Wolanin, Curator.**

Oct. 31. English Country Houses: owners and their travels/interest in Pompeii and/or classical antiquity, architecture, décor and collections.

Read Harris: ch. 12

Discussion leader:

Harris ch. 12

Short-report topics – choose whatever seems most relevant to the subject of this course:

Blenheim Palace (Duke of Marlborough)  
 Buckingham Palace Garden Pavilion  
 Castle Ashby (Marquis of Northampton)  
 Castle Howard (Earl of Carlisle)  
 Chatsworth (Duke of Devonshire)  
 Farnborough  
 Shugborough (Thomas Anson)  
 Stowe  
 Stourhead House (Sir R. Hoare)  
 Syon House (Lord Northumberland)  
 Ince Blundell Hall (Th. Weld Blundell, esq.)  
 Soane Museum (Sir John Soane)  
 Lansdowne House (Marquis of Lansdowne)

Newby Hall (Lady Vyner)  
 Hagley Hall (Sir George Lyttleton)  
 Petworth House (Lord Leconfield)  
 Wilton House (Earl of Pembroke)  
 Woburn Abbey (Duke of Bedford)

Nov. 7. The French and Pompeii. If you haven't seen me about your paper/exhibition project, please do so this week.

Read Harris, chs 8 and 9; Théophile Gautier, *My Fantoms*; and Eric Moormann, "Fictitious Manuscripts from Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Antiquity," *Cronache Ercolanesi* 40, 2010, 239-249.

Discussion leaders:

Harris  
 Gautier  
 Moormann

Short-report topics:

Madame de Staël, *Corinne, or Italy*  
 The French occupation  
 Ferdinand, Maria Carolina, and Horatio Nelson  
 Marat and Pompeii  
 Josephine Bonaparte and Pompeii

Nov. 14. The Germans and Pompeii.

Read: Wilhelm Jensen, *Gradiva*; Harris ch. 11, ch. 13

Discussion leaders:

Harris ch. 11  
 Harris ch. 13  
 Gradiva

Short-report topics:

Sans Souci  
 Villa Ludwigshöhe.  
 Wörlitz.  
 Kassel: Schloss Wilhelmshöhe  
 Aschaffenburg and the Pompejanum  
 Karl Friedrich Schinkel  
 Ludwig I of Bavaria  
 Goethe, *Italian Journey*, on the Bay of Naples

**Nov. 21.** Athens and Pompeii. Why Italy and not Greece?

**All:** be prepared today to present in class the topic of your paper/exhibition project and hand out a brief project-outline on paper. Please speak to me about your topic at least a week before this date.

**Nov. 28.** Making a living from tourists in Naples: casts, gouaches, photographers, postcards, guidebooks and their advertisements.

Short-report topics:

Karl Baedeker, *Italy. Handbook for Travellers. Third Part: Southern Italy and Sicily.* 14<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. 1903 or earlier edition.

Augustus Hare, *Cities of Southern Italy and Sicily*, 1890

Chiurazzi copies

GMU collection of Neapolitan gouaches

Alinari/Broggi photographers

Postcards

Jacob Abbott, *Rollo in Naples*, 1858

Owen Jones, designer

Pacini, *The Last Day of Pompeii* (opera)

Bulwer Lytton, *The Last Days of Pompeii* (novel)

panoramas and cork models – see, for example, Robert Burford, Karl Briullov

**Dec. 5.** Last class. American responses to Pompeii. American artists in Italy. Religious reactions to Naples and the eruptions of Mt. Vesuvius. Pompeian exhibitions in America. Papers due at class.

Read: Cooley, chapter 7, Harris ch. 14 and Epilogue.

Discussion leaders:

Cooley ch. 7

Harris ch. 14

Short-report topics:

Randolph Rogers, *Nydia*

Hiram Powers, *The Slave Girl*

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Thomas Jefferson's proposed collection of antiquities for Monticello

Mark Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, the pages about Naples and the region