Course Overview and Goals

The focus of this course is the classical heritage and Roman origins of the city of Florence. The goal is to engage you actively in observing the ways in which classical culture, and especially classical mythology, is woven into the identity of Florence. You will also see how classical themes are incorporated widely into the public architecture of the city and how the same themes from classical mythology are used by Italian artists in paintings, sculpture and artwork on display in the museums of Florence. Typically the class will use the city of Florence as a classroom. You will study public buildings with classical themes on site and look for artwork with classical themes in museums.

You will also come to understand Florence as a Roman as well as Renaissance city by examining the archaeological evidence for the Roman city of Florentia, founded by Julius Caesar in the first century BCE. You will participate in walking tours of the city in order to experience Florence in from a different perspective, namely as an ancient Roman city, and will come to appreciate how the basic features of the ancient city, namely, its Forum, Amphitheatre, walls, etc., have determined the contours of modern Florence.

*Note: This syllabus is a work in progress and will be revised periodically between now and January, 2011.

Required Texts

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*

*Classical Myths in Florence: A Walking Tour*

Course Requirements

It is expected that you will attend every class meeting unless you are ill and you will come to class prepared and willing to contribute significantly to class discussions. In addition to these general expectations, there are also specific requirements:

1) Analytical Response Papers: Part of your final course grade will be determined by how well you do on six analytical papers, due the second class each week except the first and last. In these papers you will demonstrate that you have carefully read the material and made careful on-site observations of the sites and artwork covered that week. You are expected to analyze this material and express your ideas cogently and intelligently.

2) Powerpoint Presentation: Each student will be responsible for reporting to the class on a particular topic related to Roman Florence and Classical Mythology.

3) Class Participation: You are expected to contribute to class activities and discussions on a regular basis. Participation includes making thoughtful observations and asking intelligent questions reflecting careful reading of the course materials and observations on site.

4) Final Exam: There will be one major exam in the last week of the program in which you will be expected to write intelligently and knowledgably about Roman Florence and its classical myths.

Course Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule. The syllabus will be finalized at the start of the semester. On days when we meet on site, please leave yourself enough time to get to there by the start of class! Be sure to bring the assigned reading material with you and a sturdy notebook to use while standing. The weather is changeable, so please bring appropriate clothes and rain gear with you for the days when we will be on site.

Part I: Roman Florence
Week 1
1st class: Meet in classroom at LinguaViva for an orientation to the course and an overview of course themes.

2nd class: Meet at the bus station. Today we will trace the major signs of the Roman city of Florentia in the centro.

• Read Hardie’s article on Roman Florence
• Read about Foggini’s Abundance

Week 2
1st class: Meet in the courtyard of the “Firenze com’era" museum. We will tour the Museum.

• Readings TBA
2nd class: Meet at the Archaeological Museum
   • Readings TBA
   (First short paper due)

Week 3
1st class: Meet at bus terminal for trip to Fiesole
   • Readings TBA

2nd class: Meet at the Duomo for visit to Scavi undercroft
   • Readings TBA
   (Second short paper due)

Part II: Classical Myths in Florence

Week 4
1st class: Meet at Signoria for first walking tour
   • Read First Walking Tour materials in guidebook
   We will also visit the Signoria

2nd class: Meet at the Signoria for tour of building
   • Readings from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* TBA
   (Third paper due)

Week 5
1st class: Meet at Duomo for Second walking tour
   • Read Second Walking Tour materials in guidebook

2nd class: Meet at the Bargello for tour of museum
   • Readings from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* TBA
   (Fourth paper due)

Week 6
1st class: Meet at bus depot outside train station for third walking tour
   • Read Third Walking Tour materials in guidebook

2nd class: Meet at Uffizi for tour of museum
   • Readings from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* TBA
   (Fifth paper due)

Week 7
1st class: Meet in courtyard of Pitti Palace for fourth walking tour (Boboli Gardens)
   • Read Fourth Walking Tour materials in guidebook

2nd class: Meet at Pitti Palace for tour of the museum
   • Readings from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* TBA
Part II: Arriverdeci Firenze!

Week 8

1\textsuperscript{st} class: Meet at LinguaViva for Powerpoint presentations

2\textsuperscript{nd} class: Meet at LinguaViva for final exam

Possible extra fieldtrip: Medici Villa at Poggio a Caiano
Tour #1: From the Piazza della Signoria to Piazza della Repubblica

The Piazza della Signoria
- Bandinelli’s Hercules and Cacus
- Ammannati’s Neptune Fountain
The Loggia della Signoria (Loggia dei Lanzi)
- Cellini’s Perseus
- The Pedestal of Cellini’s Perseus
- The Perseus Relief
- Giambologna’s Rape of the Sabine
- The Bronze Plaque for Giambologna’s Sabine
- Giambologna’s Hercules and Nessus
- Ajax or Menelaus with the Body of Patroclus
- Fedi’s Rape of Polyxena
The Piazza della Repubblica
- Foggini’s Abundance
Walking Tour #2: From the Duomo to Libertà

Piazza di San Giovanni and Piazza del Duomo
- Pisano’s Baptistry Doors
- Two Roman Sarcophagi in the Baptistery
- The Reliefs of the Campanile
- The Monument to Brunelleschi in the Duomo
- The Porta della Mandorla
The Palazzo Medici-Riccardi
- Bandinelli’s Orpheus
- Bertoldo’s Medallions
Piazza della Libertà
- Apollo and Daphne
Walking Tour #3: Along the Arno

Cascine Park
- The Narcissus Fountain
The Orti Oricellari
- Novelli’s Polyphemus
Piazza Ognissanti
- Romanelli’s Hercules and the Nemean Lion
Piazza Santa Trinità
- Tadda’s Justice
- Giambologna’s Bacchus
The Cortile of the Pitti Palace
- The Farnese Hercules
- Hercules and Antaeus
- Hercules
- Pluto and Cerberus
Walking Tour #4: The Boboli Gardens
- Bandinelli’s Jupiter
- The Grotta of Buontalenti
- Bandinelli’s Apollo
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<td>Parigi’s Perseus Riding a Winged Hippocamp</td>
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Prato delle Colonne

- Bust of Jupiter
- Jupiter Serapis
- Fancelli’s Vulcan
- Silvani’s Saturn
- Aesculapius

Statue of Seated Woman (Venus)

- Bacchus
- Flora
- Seated Venus and Cupid
- Apollo
- Bacchus and a Faun
- Roman Sarcophagus: The Labors of Hercules
- Perseus and the Dragon
- Four Roman Statues at the Limonaia
- The Bagpiper
- Poggini’s Bacchus
- Costoli’s Pegasus
Minerva

Venus

Francavilla’s Ocean

Thetis

Poggini’s Venus

Venus Holding Cupid

Thetis

Annalena Reliefs of a Muse and Abundance

Statue of Mercury