

ACM-Mellon SAIL : Mediterranean Trivium

June 2013

SYLLABUS

The seminar examines how the singular geological framework and distinctive ecology of the Mediterranean region, and in particular Italy, shaped Classical, Renaissance and modern cultures. Archeological and documentary evidence in these periods demonstrates how people managed, explained, and imagined nature. At the same time, the land contains its own precise geological and ecological record. We will use these sources to inform visits and discussions. The seminar centers in Florence, with trips to Vesuvius, Pompeii, Rome, Orvieto, and Pisa to explore the interplay between people and nature over time.

We aim for each day's itinerary and discussions to be interdisciplinary. The leadership team will divide responsibilities for sessions according to their expertise, and we also hope that each participant will prepare a short presentation on some aspect of the seminar.

In addition, we have set aside time for teams and individuals to work on their curricular projects and for talking together about these plans and about ways of incorporating seminar material into courses.

Day 1 June 25

Rome: Participants arrive in Rome (FCO) then make their way to the Hotel Navona. In the afternoon we will visit the Palatine and Capitoline hills, and the Forum. Emphasis on aspects of regional geology that encouraged optimum use of earth resources (Siddoway) and on how the topography of the sites affects their social function and the development of the societies themselves (Thakur and Ashley).

2:30 Meet in hotel lobby, walk to Palatine.

3-6 Palatine (3-4), Forum (4-5:30), Capitoline (5:30-6)

6:30 **Personal introductions and overview of the seminar**; 7 pm group dinner Campo dei Fiori.

Night in Rome: Hotel Navona

Day 2 June 26

(a) Rome: The Pantheon: 8:30-9:30 Focus on the union of concept, design, and site.

(b) Disruptive nature #1: Introduction to the environs around Vesuvius, look at urban planning of sites, archaeology, history, art history, anthropology, economics. Thakur will discuss the history of the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, the eruption of 79 A.D., and discuss issues of site preservation and management. Siddoway will talk about the geology of the site, the geological principles of uniformitarianism vs. catastrophism, and the effects of active volcanism on communities.

10-1 Bus to Herculaneum (Lunch en route on your own)

1-2:30 Herculaneum (Thakur)

3:30:-7 Pompeii ½ time structured (Thakur; C. Hardy, Carleton; M. Simpson, Luther); ½ time free

8:30 pm Group dinner at the hotel: **Introductions of curricular plans and of goals and outcomes.**

Night near Pompeii: Hotel Costa

Day 3 June 27

Disruptive nature #2: Mt. Vesuvius, including a climb to the caldera. Siddoway will discuss the geology of the site, how the active volcano has helped to shape the communities which have and continue to live in the shadow of the volcano and the surrounding areas.

Day 3 June 27 (continued_

8:30 Depart for Vesuvius

9-12 Vesuvius.

Lunch on your own

4:45 pm-7 pm train to Florence

Curriculum planning: team planning session afternoon (on train)

8:30 Group dinner in Florence

Osteria de L'Ortolano (Via degli Alfani, 9r)

Night in Florence: Loggiato dei Serviti

Day 4 June 28

Florence: the city, its location, the Arno river. Walking tour of Florence (Ashley), concentrating on the high medieval/ Renaissance periods and on the Arno's role in shaping the city's history. We will discuss the relationship between the city's lay out and its location in a flood plain. (Savina, Carleton).

8:30-12:00: Walkabout

12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30-4:30 **Curriculum planning: (a) Discussion of readings, specifically the distinctive cross-disciplinary approaches to the Mediterranean. Participants will also share their disciplinary perspectives on the topography, ecology, culture or history of the Mediterranean and in particular of Italy. (b) Small groups from different academic disciplines develop an inquiry-based exercise related to the material presented on Days 1-4. Report back to the whole group.**

Group 1) Siddoway, Balaam, Simpson, Ziskowski

Group 2) Ashley, Carrasco, Savina, Trull

Group 3) Thakur, St. Clair, Thompson, Schodt

Group 4) Casson, Hardy, Kann, Lynch

4:30- Duomo visit and climb to the cupola (if you have the energy)

Dinner on your own

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 5 June 29

Florence: landscape and the imagination. We will look at how people envisioned nature by examining portrayals of landscape in paintings in the Uffizi museum. We will then explore how people put the natural elements to use in cultural representations. (examples of Etruscan bronze sculptures and tools at the Archeological Museum).

8:30-11:30 Uffizi. Ashley and N. Thompson, St. Olaf plus time to explore individually or as teams.

11:30-12:30 Lunch on your own

12:30-2 Archeological Museum (A. Carrasco, Luther: metallurgy/environmental impact of mining)

3 pm-6 pm **Curriculum planning: (a) How participating colleges "do" interdisciplinary learning (what works/what doesn't) (P. Balaam, Carleton and D. Casson, St. Olaf) (b)Time for team planning.**

Dinner on your own

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 6 June 30

Hills: Orvieto as an example of the relationship between topography and city planning and life in the city.

8:00 Bus to Orvieto

11-12:30 Under Orvieto

12:30-2:00 Lunch on your own

2:00-4:00 Duomo (M. Trull, St. Olaf) and further exploration of the town.

4:00 - Bus back to Florence

Curriculum planning update (time flexible- upon our return or bumped to day 7 if we get back too late)

Dinner on your own

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 7 July 1

Mountains: "Virtual" geology: GoogleEarth analysis of the Apennines

8:30-11:30 Laboratory: Siddoway and Thakur

11:30-1 Lunch on your own

1-2 Tutorial on images/video A. Kann, Coe

2-5 Curriculum planning: (a) In the afternoon, team planning session. (b) Free time for visits to sites of interest.

5-6 (if not day 6) curriculum planning update for the whole group.

Dinner on your own

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 8 July 2

Pisa and the Arno River valley: the relationship of Pisa to the sea, the valley of the Arno and Florence, and the coastal environment. Emphasis on current issues of urban development, agriculture, and flood control.

8:30 Leave for Pisa

9:30-10:30 Il padule di Fucecchio-M. St. Clair, Coe.

11:30-1:00 Campo dei Miracoli -Ashley on site, design, and construction of the buildings, especially the Tower.

1:00 to 1:30 Lunch on your own

Return to Florence

Afternoon: **Curriculum planning and review: Finalize team and individual reports. Culminating session to review curricular development ideas.**

Group dinner (Le Barrique Via dei Leone, 40)

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 9 July 3

a.m. Curriculum planning and review: Culminating session to review curricular development ideas and present to the group. Next steps.

Lunch on your own

1:30 meet bus

Tuscan Terroir (Siddoway)

3:00 Volpaia (tour wine making facilities)

5:30 Montefili (growing grapes and building an agriturismo) Lynch, Luther, on Tuscan ecology.

Group dinner (Trattoria “da Pordo,” Valigondoli)

Night in Florence: Loggiato

Day 10 July 4

Rome: visit Piazza Navona and St. Peters to summarize the new perspectives gained in the seminar. Begin with Piazza Navona, then visit St. Peters, including the Scavi Vaticani and the Roman necropolis beneath the basilica, the Basilica itself, and a climb to the top of the cupola to view the contemporary city from its highest point.

8:30: Train to Rome

11:00 Hotel to drop off bags

11:30-12:30 Piazza Navona A. Ziskowski, Coe (aqueducts/water delivery)

Lunch on your own

1:30-5 pm Thakur: St Peters (Scavi, Basilica, Cupola)

7:30 Group dinner

Night in Rome: Hotel Navona

July 5 Participants leave for the United States