

Spring Semester 2014  
Travel Course  
Meeting Times: TBD  
Office Hours: MW 11-1, T 2-3,  
and by appointment

Dr. Achim Kopp  
107 Knight Hall  
Telephone: 301-2761 (O); 474-6248 (H)  
E-Mail: kopp\_a@mercer.edu  
Web Site: <http://www.mercer.edu/fil/>

## **CLA 153S0T1: Classical Studies Abroad**

This course is coupled with this spring's CLA 102 Comedy and Satire. Participants will travel to Italy during spring break 2014 and get a first-hand introduction to some of the ancient sites connected with the Greek and Roman texts studied in CLA 102. The sites include Pompeii, Herculaneum, Cumae, Paestum, Ostia, and Rome. Students will examine the archaeological remains at each locale, make connections with the literary texts, visit local museums, and generally immerse themselves into both the classical and modern landscape of the Campania and Rome. The course carries one credit hour.

### **Texts**

TBA (for preparation of individual site reports)

### **Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will:

- have a deeper understanding of the geographical and historical context of some of the classical texts you are studying in CLA 102 this semester
- have been introduced to aspects of classical archaeology
- have gained further knowledge of Greco-Roman culture, history, and mythology
- be able to apply that knowledge to your own interpretation of classical texts
- have gained a first-hand (albeit brief) glimpse of modern Italian society

### **Instructional methodology**

The bulk of the learning in this course will happen during approximately ten days over spring break 2014, when our group will travel to Italy. Nevertheless, you will have to set aside time both before and after the travel period to complete assignments.

Before our departure, there will be a number of group meetings in which we will discuss the logistics of the trip and distribute the topics for the site reports (as described below). I expect you to prepare your entire site report before we leave for Italy. Please remember that our time in the

country is limited and that we will want to focus on exploring the archaeological sites and museums and on experiencing the local culture as much as possible. Therefore, there will be no time to research your site report during the trip itself.

While we are in Italy, I will ask you to journal on a regular basis. I believe that journaling is an excellent way to engage the sites and process the multitude of experiences you will no doubt have.

After our return to Macon, I will ask you to spend some time pondering what you have seen and learned, and organize your impressions in the form of a brief reflection essay.

## Evaluation

Site report	40 %
Active participation	20 %
Journal	20 %
Final reflection	20 %

Each student will be responsible for one of the major archaeological sites we visit (i.e., Pompeii, Herculaneum, Cumae, Paestum, Ostia, and the *forum Romanum* in Rome). You are expected to lead the group through “your” site and help us make sense of the archaeological remains. Your talk should be a free delivery (i.e., not read word by word from a prepared manuscript—notecards are fine) and also include the history of the site. Expect your program to last approximately two hours. You should prepare a handout for each participant with a map and a summary of your most important information. I will help you identify materials for preparation before our departure. Your site report will be graded for accuracy, completeness, and general effectiveness. Please remember that we will be relying on your expertise to make sense of the site!

In order to learn in this course, students have to be engaged. You will see some of the most stunning places in the world on this trip, and I expect you to show interest, curiosity, and appreciation. Ask questions both of the professor and your classmates. Make connections between the texts you have read in CLA 102 and the archaeological sites as well as between the historical and modern culture of the region.

I expect you to journal every day on our trip, beginning during our flight to Italy. Please purchase a small, but sturdy, composition book for that purpose. For each day, you should write a minimum of about 300 words. Try to be creative and versatile! Focusing on a particular topic or observation can be just as interesting as a general description of your impressions of the day. Overall, I will be more interested in your reaction to the ancient sites and local people than the logistics of the trip or your personal issues with your classmates. Journaling can be done under a tree on the site, on the ride home in the van, or at night in the hotel. I will collect your journals at the airport before our flight home. Your journals will be graded for the depth of your engagement of the places, things, people, and events you will encounter on this trip. While contents are certainly more important than style, your journal should be kept in a reader-friendly and pleasing style.

Your final reflection should constitute a general assessment of your impressions during the journey. You may want to give a general overview or focus on a particular theme. The essay

should be written with some distance in time from the travel period and after some deliberation of your experience. It should be four to six double-spaced, typed pages in length and follow MLA style. Since you will have time to ponder, good style and mechanics are essential for a top grade. The deadline for the essay is Thursday, April 3 (at the beginning of the CLA 102 class meeting).

Should you have trouble with any aspect of this class before, during, or after the trip, you are encouraged to make me aware of this fact immediately in person, by phone, or by e-mail.

## Course policies

Co-requisite: CLA 102 Comedy and Satire

Requirements: Active and creative engagement of the topic  
 Meticulous preparation of the site report  
 Active participation during group meetings and site and museum visits  
 Curiosity about classical civilization  
 Openness toward an unaccustomed foreign culture  
 Willingness to accept the vagaries of group travel in a foreign country

Attendance: You are expected to attend every called group meeting both on campus and in Italy. I reserve the right to lower your grade for missed meetings and tardiness. Under no circumstances will you receive a passing grade for this course if you miss more than 25 % of the arranged group activities.

Late assignments: All assignments are due when indicated. Late submission of assignments will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor for cases of duly documented personal or family emergency. I reserve the right to take ten points off the score for every day past the original deadline. There will be no extra credit work or rewrites.

<u>Grading scale:</u>	90-100	A	70-75	C
	86-89	B+	66-69	D
	80-85	B	0-65	F
	76-79	C+		

Honor code: The honor code will be firmly followed. While you are encouraged to work and study together with other students or with tutors, all written work that you submit must be your own. Please refer to the *Lair* (student handbook; see at <http://studentaffairs.mercer.edu/studentaffairs/resources/upload/Lair-11-12-FINAL-with-revisions-2.pdf>) for details regarding violations of the honor system.

Accommodation of disability: Students requiring accommodations for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. The instructor will refer you to the ACCESS and Accommodation Office to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/AA/Section 504 and to request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic

transcripts. In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the ACCESS Coordinator. A new form must be requested each semester. Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the ACCESS and Accommodation Office and request a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information, please contact Carole Burrowbridge, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the ACCESS and Accommodation Office website at <http://www.mercer.edu/disabilityservices>.

Electronic submission rule: Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically to a professor are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by the professor. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. Faculty members are encouraged, but not required, to acknowledge receipt of the assignment.

Cell phone usage: Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom, lab, or formal academic or performance event.

End-of-semester course evaluation: In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of instruction, each student enrolled in this course is required to complete an end-of-semester course evaluation, to be administered during the last week of class. Students failing to submit the evaluation by Friday, April 25, 2014, will be assigned the grade of "Incomplete," which will automatically turn into an "F" if the evaluation is not submitted by the midterm of fall semester 2014.

## **Tentative schedule**

On-campus meetings before and after travel to Italy: TBA

Travel schedule:

[Please note that the following schedule is tentative. While we will try to explore as many of the sights listed below as possible, the actual program may well be altered due to the opening hours of the sites, the weather, and any number of logistical problems. If we are faced with time constraints, we will save some of the sights for future visits and focus on what we can comfortably and profitably accomplish during our time in Italy.]

Thursday, March 6:

Meet at Delta counter at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport at 1:00 p.m.

Depart at 4:25 p.m. on DL 240 for Rome, Italy

Friday, March 7:

Arrive at Rome Fiumicino Airport at 8:10 a.m.; transfer by rental van to Pompeii: Hotel Villa Franca, Via Diomede 6, Pompei, NA 80045, Phone +39-347-4692195; evening drive to the summit of Mt. Vesuvius

Saturday, March 8:

Archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum

Sunday, March 9:

Daytrip to the island of Capri and the archaeological site of Paestum

Monday, March 10:

National Archaeological Museum, Naples; Solfaterra; Cumae

Tuesday, March 11:

Drive to the archaeological site of Ostia; return rental van at Fiumicino Airport; take airport train to downtown Rome: Hotel Augustus, Via Piave 61, Rome 00187, Phone +39-064-2014911

Wednesday, March 12:

Classical Rome (Part I): Forum Romanum; Palatine Hill; Circus Maximus; Colosseum; Domus Aurea, Capitoline Hill

Thursday, March 13:

Catholic Rome: St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican Museum, Castel Sant'Angelo, Lateran Palace

Friday, March 14:

Classical Rome (Part II): Campus Martius, Pantheon, Ara Pacis, Mausoleum of Augustus, Via Appia

Saturday, March 15:

Take airport train to Fiumicino Airport; depart at 8:55 a.m. on KLM 3400 (operated by Alitalia) for Amsterdam (arrive at Schiphol Airport at 11:30 a.m.); depart at 1:05 p.m. on DL 33 for Atlanta; arrive at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport at 5:40 p.m.; all participants must arrange for their own transportation from the Atlanta airport to their home or to Macon.

## **Preparation and protocol**

### **I. Travel guides**

You should purchase (and bring) a good travel guide for Italy. The *Blue Guide: Italy* series includes the most complete modern travel guides I know and is particularly informative with regard to the archaeological sites we are planning to visit. Other useful guidebooks are found in the Lonely Planet and the DK Eyewitness Travel series, among others. Most travel guides also offer introductions to the history and contemporary culture of the country they describe. It would

be an excellent idea for you to read over this chapter before our departure. Another useful tool might be a small Italian phrasebook or dictionary to help with verbal interaction with the locals.

## **II. Notifications, phone calls, and Internet access**

Make sure someone (parents, friends) has a copy of your itinerary, including the phone numbers of the hotels where we stay. Remember that Italy is six hours ahead of Eastern Time. In case of emergency and if they are unable to reach a member of the group directly, people should contact Mercer University's Office of International Programs at (478) 301-2573.

If you have international roaming on your cell, you can make and receive calls in Italy. If not, you can buy prepaid phone cards in Italy that give you access to many public phones. Some phone cards that you can buy in the US will not work in Italy, so it's better to buy them there. Most hotels offer Internet access, which enables you to communicate with your friends and relatives by e-mail and other online means. If you bring your own laptop, make sure it isn't bulky. Remember that you will need an adapter to recharge the battery (see below). Some hotels offer computer terminals in the lobby, as do, of course, Internet cafes.

## **III. Packing**

### **Luggage** (pack lightly)

You will have to carry your own luggage, but you will never have to carry it far. Because of limited space in our van, you should try to limit yourself to one mid-size checked bag and one carry-on. You may want to pack an extra bag in your large bag for things you may buy while in Italy.

### **Clothes** (pack lightly)

The temperature in Italy in March is quite unpredictable. To be on the safe side, you should probably bring a warm jacket. Do not bring dressy clothes; everything will be casual on our trip. T-shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans will be the main attire, but you will want to have at least one pair of shorts, just in case. When visiting churches, you will need to cover arms and legs (short sleeves are fine, but not sleeveless). Do not bring clothes with obvious American logos (esp. flags). The best clothes will be non-descriptive of your nationality. Bring swimming suits, if you want to swim.

Plan to wear some clothes several times. If you want to wash laundry, you will have to do it by hand in the bathroom at the hotel. You may want to bring Woolite or some other type of liquid or powder detergent. Remember to pack it in your checked bag.

### **Shoes**

You will need very comfortable shoes for walking on the archaeological sites and in Rome. It is better not to bring brand-new shoes; break them in first. You may also want to bring sandals.

### **Sun protection**

The sunlight in Italy can be quite intense, even in late winter. It may be a good idea to bring some sun block, sunglasses, and a hat.

### **Appliances**

The electrical current in Italy is 240 volts. Regular US appliances are only for 110v. Check the label on your appliances to see if they can take 240v. This includes any chargers for batteries, phones, or cameras. To use appliances (hair dryers, clocks, etc.) that only operate on 110v, you will need a transformer. These are expensive and bulky. You will need adapter plugs to run any appliance (incl. computers) since Italy follows the European pattern. You can buy adapters at Wal-Mart. If you bring battery-operated devices, bring plenty of batteries.

### **Cameras**

Bring a good camera but not necessarily an expensive one. Bring extra memory cards for digital cameras. Batteries, too. Video cameras are not recommended. They are a pain to keep up with, take up too much time to use, and are prone to theft.

### **Medicine**

Bring plenty of any prescription medications you use. Also, bring a copy of your prescriptions, including glasses or contacts. Bring your own contact lens cleaners and solutions. Recommended over-the-counter medicines are Aspirin or Tylenol, cold and allergy remedies, diarrhea aids and upset stomach aids, and sore throat medications. Band-Aids are a good idea. You may want to get an antibiotic from your physician. Ask your doctor about other precautions, too. Please alert me any time you feel ill. In addition, please let me know prior to our trip of any major health issues you may have.

### **Study materials**

Bring paper and pens for notes and assignments; also, remember your notebook for journaling. You will not have access to a printer, so print and make copies of anything you need before leaving for Italy. In particular, make sure you bring one copy of the handout accompanying your site report for every member of the group.

### **Money**

Do not bring a lot of cash with you. You will have regular access to ATM machines. Exchanging money takes a long time, and you'll get the best rate at an ATM. I have found my bank's debit card to be most convenient. I recommend that you inform both your bank and credit card company that you may be using your cards in Italy. Do not bring traveler's checks. They take forever to exchange. Italy's currency is the Euro.

## **IV. Protocol**

### **Basic behavior**

The basic rule is: **Do what your professor tells you to do.** This may seem arbitrary, but it is essential for your safety and well-being. Failure to abide by this simple rule may result in your dismissal from the program and immediate return to the US (at your expense).

Remember that we will be visitors in a foreign country. Customs there will be different from ours. We will have to accommodate ourselves to their way of life. After all, it is their country.

We want to make a good impression on our hosts and help dispel the image of Americans as terrible travelers. When you are walking around, try not to be too loud or noticeable. Try to blend in as well as you can. Do not draw attention to yourself.

### **Personal contacts in Italy**

Be on guard about getting too familiar with persons of the opposite sex. Many of their opinions about American morals are based on movies. They may assume that all of us are very promiscuous, and some may try to take advantage of that. **Do not accept invitations to go with anyone anywhere at any time!**

### **Food**

Food requires special mention. The food in Italy is superb. Unfortunately, many Americans have a diet limited to fast food and snacks. Do not expect to find American-style hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, or barbeque. Do expect to find lots of pizza, pasta, salads, vegetables, and fruit. Although chicken, beef, pork, mutton, and seafood will be served at most restaurants, vegetarians should have no problem finding enough to eat. Lunches will typically be simple or picnic style, consisting of bread, cheese, fruit, vegetables, cookies, chips, and salami. Breakfasts are usually served at the hotel and include bread, jelly or honey, hard-boiled eggs, cheese, and coffee or tea. You will have opportunities to buy snacks if you want them. If you are picky about food, you may want to bring some of your favorite snacks with you.

### **Alcohol**

Alcoholic drinks also require special mention. The legal drinking age in Italy is 18. Italians do not typically abuse alcohol, however, and public drunkenness is frowned upon. Most abuse is done by tourists, especially students who sometimes find the ready availability of alcohol to be irresistible. If you partake in alcohol during our trip, do so wisely. Missing class or being unable to participate in required activities because of alcohol excess will be treated very seriously by your professor. If you cannot behave responsibly in this respect, you will be sent home (at your own expense).

### **Drug use**

Drug use should not require any mention at all. There's a simple rule: **Zero tolerance!** Any suspected drug use will be dealt with immediately. Confirmed users will be sent home immediately (at their own expense).

### **Sexual harassment**

Any incident of sexual harassment by an Italian national, by a tourist, or by a fellow traveler should be reported to the professor immediately. Any student guilty of such behavior toward another student or toward anyone else will be sent home (at his or her own expense).

### **Time**

**Be on time for everything!** Your tardiness will affect everyone in the group and limit what we can do. Go to bed at a reasonable time and get up on time. You may want to bring a small travel alarm clock. Stay on schedule. This will require some adjustment in your biological clock because of the six-hour time difference. Understand that we will sometimes have to alter our



schedule for unexpected reasons. We are simply not in control of all factors affecting our schedule. You must be on time for all events, even if you find yourself waiting around for the event to happen. This may not seem fair, but it's the way it is.

### **Souvenirs**

At the archaeological sites, do not pick up any seemingly worthless pieces of pottery or other artifacts to keep as souvenirs. You can be arrested and prosecuted. The Italians are very protective of their artifacts. If you find any significant artifacts, tell me immediately. You can find plenty of legal souvenirs in the shops. I'll be happy to advise you about where to shop.

### **Caution**

Use common sense about this. Always be with someone else from our group. This is true in all the towns we will visit during the program, but especially so in Rome. If you go off on your own during your spare time, let me know where you are going. Keep an eye on your belongings at all times. Certain parts of Rome are notorious for pickpockets. Otherwise, the crime level in Italy is below that of the US.

### **Reckless behavior**

I realize this does not need to be said, but for precaution's sake, I say it anyway: **Stay out of trouble!** You do not want to spend any time in an Italian hospital or jail. Reckless behavior will not be tolerated.