

HI 600: Fall Semester 2021  
Living and Working in Pompeii



Instructor: Dr. M. Kleijwegt; 5121 George Mosse Humanities Building; email: [marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu](mailto:marc.kleijwegt@wisc.edu); office hours: Monday: 10:00-11:30; on other days by appointment.

Class times: Wednesday 1:20-3:15 PM.

Location: Greek and Latin Reading Room; Memorial Library.

Textbooks:

Mary Beard, *The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii lost and found*, Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press 2008; ISBN: 9780674045866.

Alison E. Cooley and M. G. L. Cooley (eds.), *Pompeii and Herculaneum: a sourcebook*, second edition, Abingdon and New York: Routledge 2014; ISBN: 9780415666800.

Paul Zanker, *Pompeii: Public and Private Life*, Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press 1999; ISBN: 9780674689671.

Credit Policy Statement:

The credit standard for this 3-credit course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course's learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), dedicated online time, reading, writing, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

## Learning Objectives:

By the time you have completed this undergraduate capstone seminar, you will have gained knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- You will have become familiar with the foundations of social and economic life of Pompeii and Herculaneum. More specifically you will have gained a deeper understanding of the social relevance of the Roman house.
- You will have gained a better understanding of the constantly evolving positions of scholarship on Pompeii and Herculaneum, from the middle of the twentieth century to the second decade of the twenty-first century, and why and how these positions changed.
- You will have gained a more extended and more sophisticated experience in developing a research question and how to present an argument or a series of arguments consistently over a length of between 15 and 20 pages.



Villa of Fannius Synistor, Boscoreale  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

**Important Dates:**

**Choose a House:** meeting of 29 September.

**Submission of assignment 1 (House):** 10 October, no later than 11:59 PM.

**Submission of assignment 2 (Economies):** 17 October, no later than 11:59 PM.

**Submission of assignment 3 (Women):** 31 October, no later than 11:59 PM.

**Submission of final paper:** 19 December, no later than 11:59 PM.

Pay attention to the fact that all submission dates fall on a Sunday. Last instruction date with information on the assignments is the Wednesday of the same week. You have only a couple of days to write a draft, make revisions, and submit your essay. It speaks for itself that you can begin to think and write a draft before the Wednesday of class.

Your final grade consists of five components:

Attendance, preparedness and contributions to the discussion: 5%.

Assignment 1 (on the Roman house): 15%.

Assignment 2 (on the economy): 15%.

Assignment 3 (on Roman women): 15%

Final paper (between 15 and 20 pages): 50%.

I use the following grades:

93-100: A

88-92: AB

83-87: B

78-82: BC

70-77: C

60-69: D

0-59: F



Mummified skeleton of Marcus Venerius Secundio  
discovered outside the Porta Sarno; August 2021

### **Teaching Program**

Week 1: Wednesday 8 September: Pompeii: an introduction.

Week 2: Wednesday 15 September: the government and the urban elite.

Readings: Mary Beard, *The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii lost and found*, Cambridge, Mass. 2008, 188-216; Alison E. Cooley and M. G. L. Cooley (eds.), *Pompeii and Herculaneum: a sourcebook*, second edition, Abingdon and New York 2014, 160-212.

Week 3: Wednesday 22 September: Public and private space in Pompeii and Herculaneum: an introduction to the problem:

Readings: Paul Zanker, *Pompeii: Public and Private Life*, Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press 1999, pp. 3-9; 27-32; 61-135.

Week 4: Wednesday 29 September: Public and private space in Pompeii and Herculaneum: an advanced discussion of the problem:

Readings: Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum*, pp. 3-16; 17-38.  
Ray Laurence, *Roman Pompeii: Space and Society*, pp. 102-117.



Each student will focus on a house in Pompeii. You will find more information on the houses listed below in the textbooks. Scholarly articles can be found through JSTOR. A very useful website is: [www.pompeiiinpictures.com](http://www.pompeiiinpictures.com)

Let your research be driven by the following questions:

- Which aspect or aspects of the house that you study has attracted the persistent attention of scholars?
- Why do scholars believe that this aspect/these aspects are important?
- What is the relationship between the decoration of the house that you study and the social status of the owner?

You can choose from the following houses (the numbers after the names of the houses refer to the part of Pompeii where the house was located by region, by block, followed by the location of the individual house (see map in all three textbooks); Romans did have street names, but in many cases the street names from Pompeii are unknown to us):

House of the Vettii (VI.15.1).

House of Marcus Octavius Quartio (III.2.2).

House of the Faun (VI.12.2).

House of Marcus Lucretius Fronto (V.4a).

House of Marcus Fabius Rufus (VII.16).

House of Aulus Umbricius Scaurus (VII.16.12-5).

House of the Menander (I.10.4).

House of Marcus Epidius Rufus (IX.1.20).  
House of the Chaste Lovers (IX.12.6).  
House of the Painters at Work (IX.12.9).  
House of the Tragic Poet (VI.18.3-5).  
House of the Gilded Cupids (VI.16.7 and 38).  
House of Caius Julius Polybius (IX.12.1-3).  
House of the Centenary or of the Centennial (IX.8.6).  
House of the Ancient Hunt (VII.4.48).

You will select your house during our meeting on Wednesday 29 September. During the meeting on 6 October we will go over the results of your studies and discuss strategies moving forward. You will submit your final results as a short paper (minimum of 300 and a maximum of 450 words) on Sunday 10 October no later than 11:59 PM. This assignment will count for 15 % towards your final grade.

Week 5: Wednesday 6 October: The Roman House

Week 6: Wednesday 13 October: The economies of Pompeii:

Readings: Mary Beard, *The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii lost and found*, Cambridge, MA 2008, 152-188 (Chapter 5: Earning a Living: Baker, Banker and *Garum* Maker); Alison E. Cooley and M. G. L. Cooley (eds.), *Pompeii and Herculaneum. a sourcebook*, second edition, Abingdon and New York 2014, 227-287 (Chapter 8: Commercial Life).

These readings and the discussion during our meeting on 13 October will be the material for your second assignment:

Choose 1 of the 3 following options below. Do not submit more than 1 option. Write a minimum of 300 and a maximum of 450 words.

Your essay will be scored on the basis of the following points:

The discussion and interpretation of the primary sources.

The sophistication of the argument or arguments that you develop to answer the question that you have selected.

The organization and the sophistication of your writing-style.

Your essay needs to be submitted on Sunday 17 October no later than 11:59 PM. This assignment will count for 15 % towards your final grade. I will discuss the answers to all three options at our meeting on Wednesday 20 October.

To know more about the primary sources discussed in Beard's chapter, you need to consult the sourcebook by Cooley and Cooley. For example, the loan agreement between Poppaea Note and Dicia Margaritis which is mentioned on p. 182 is given in full in Cooley and Cooley (H60; p. 258).

Also, some of the documents from the archive of Lucius Caecilius Iucundus can be found there, as well as the evidence related to the fish-sauce manufactured and sold by Aulus Umbricius Scaurus. Note that Beard does not mention an individual from Pompeii who is involved in international trade, despite the fact that Pompeii had a harbor (perhaps even two: one for the sea; the other for the river).

1. On pp. 153-154 Beard summarizes the different schools of thought on the nature of the Roman economy. Study the characteristics of each theory and develop an argument whether the economy of Pompeii was 'primitive' or 'modern' based on the evidence discussed in Beard's chapter. [This means that you have to study the commodities and economic transactions discussed by Beard and see whether they fit the primitive or the modern model.]

2. As the pages of Beard's chapter illustrate, there was a large number of commercial activities in Pompeii. However, if all (or the vast majority of) the items that were produced in Pompeii were also purchased and consumed in Pompeii, then the scale of the city's economy was limited (think of the population size). The true test of Pompeii's success as an economy is the export of commodities. Discuss commodities which were sold outside of the city and discuss the respective importance of export and local consumption. [This means that you have to read the chapter very closely and decide for yourself which items might have been sold at other places than Pompeii. You also have to take into consideration the quality of the individual products (the higher the quality, the bigger the profit). Note that Beard does not directly discuss whether products from Pompeii were traded outside Pompeii.]

3. Discuss the unique primary evidence (three sets in total) for financial and fiscal transactions at Pompeii. What important information do we gain from this evidence for an assessment of the economy in Pompeii? [This means that you have to focus on Beard's discussion on pp. 177-182. Note that she ends this section with a discussion of literacy in Pompeii (which is not relevant for a discussion of the economy) and that she scores Iucundus' activities in terms of economic scale.]



Zeus and Hera on Mount Ida;  
House of the Tragic Poet

Week 7: Wednesday 20 October: Discussion and feedback on Assignment 2.

Week 8: Wednesday 27 October: Roman Women.

Readings: Eve d'Ambra, *Roman Women*, New York and Cambridge 2007, pp. 45-93 (Chapter 2: Marriage and Family); Elaine Fantham, Helene Peet Foley, Natalie Boymel Kampen, Sarah B. Pomery and H. Alan Shapiro, *Women in the Classical World*, Oxford and New York 1994, pp. 294-345 (Chapter 11: Women, Family, and Sexuality in the Age of Augustus and the Julio-Claudians; Excursus: The Women of Pompeii).

In your third assignment you are required to answer the following question:

What is/are the role/roles of elite women in Roman society? How does modern scholarship explain the high-profile public activities of some elite women in Pompeii? Discuss the merits and weakness of the views of modern scholars. You are required to submit a paper in which you present your answers to these questions on Sunday 31 October no later than 11:59 PM. The length of this paper is 1,000 words (note that this is much longer than the other two assignments; this is done to prepare for the writing of the final paper for this seminar). The outcomes and results of your assignments will be discussed at our meeting on Wednesday 3 November.

Week 9: Wednesday 3 November: Religion in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Readings: Mary Beard, *The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii lost and found*, Cambridge, MA 2008, pp. 276-309 (Chapter 9: A City Full of Gods); Alison E. Cooley and M. G. L. Cooley (eds.), *Pompeii and Herculaneum: a sourcebook*, second edition, Abingdon and New York 2014, pp. 117-160 (Chapter 5: Religion).

Week 10: Wednesday 10 November: Brainstorming session on research

Week 11: Wednesday 17 November: no class; individual meetings with instructor (if required).

Week 12: Wednesday 24 November: work on final essay.

Week 13: Wednesday 1 December: meeting to assess progress and discuss common problems.

Week 14: Wednesday 8 December: no class; individual meetings with instructor (if required).

Week 15: Wednesday 15 December: final meeting of the seminar: assessment of achievements.

Submission of final paper: Sunday 19 December, no later than 11:59 PM.

