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## ART 485-02, Senior Seminar: Domestic Architecture and Decoration in Pompeii and Herculaneum, Fall 2012

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**ART 485: Senior Seminar in Art History**  
**Domestic Architecture & Decoration in Pompeii and Herculaneum**  
Fall 2012

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Prof. Francesca Tronchin  
Barret 216  
Mondays, 6-8:30pm

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office: Clough 420  
office hours: TTh 1:30-3:00pm, by appt.

**Art 485** is a senior seminar designed for senior art history majors to examine the discipline of art history by concentrating on a focused topic. Emphasis is placed on critical reading and writing, analysis of art and critical methodology through class discussion, formal presentations, and a substantial research paper.

**Course Description**

This seminar focuses on domestic architecture at Pompeii and Herculaneum, with specific attention paid to the development of the shape of the Pompeian house and its decoration. We will discuss a variety of examples of residences from rental properties to grand extraurban villas.

The examination of these monuments will be laid over an economic, social, and political context. We will discuss current theoretical approaches to domestic architecture and decor and contrast them to the early scholarship on Pompeii. Comparanda from Rome, Ostia, and other Roman sites will be studied periodically.

**Course Objectives**

We will discuss advanced critical and methodological issues in art history and archaeology through an examination of the residences of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Students will first be introduced to this material and then we will turn to problems of interpretation, historiography, and current scholarly debates surrounding it through an examination of an extensive bibliography.

Another main objective for this course is to refine students' research methods, critical analysis, oral presentation, and writing skills in art history through an extended research project and a public talk.

**Course resources**

In addition to the required and recommended textbooks for the course, available at the college bookstore (or online), PDFs of readings will be available to students through the course folder (or some other agreed-upon place).

A number of books have also been placed on Reserve in Barret Library. Some of these books will be required reading and others will be useful in your research projects.

Two books in particular will be important for weekly reading assignments and research projects. You're not obliged to buy them, but we will refer to them frequently.

- Dobbins & Foss, eds. 2007-2009, *The World of Pompeii*. London & New York.
- Richardson, Jr. 1988-1997, *Pompeii: An Architectural History*. Baltimore, MD.

Two journals (available in Barret) which have numerous articles relevant to our subjects are the *American Journal of Archaeology* (AJA) and the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (JRA). While the former is also available online through JStor, the latter is not.

An additional resource is the Bryn Mawr Classical Review. It is an online series of book reviews in classics, classical art, and archaeology from 1990 to the present. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/>

Students will also be provided with a bibliography on residences and decoration in Roman Italy, created by Prof. Tronchin, but this is not by any means exhaustive. Some of these materials are not available in our library or databases. As you are preparing your research projects, try to plan well ahead in the case you need to order books or articles through Interlibrary Loan.

The bibliography is available online here and will be updated periodically throughout the semester: <http://bitly.com/domusvillas>

### **Course requirements**

Details about each assignment will be provided well ahead of due dates.

### **Attendance and participation**

As the success of any seminar is largely dependent upon discussion generated by the students in the class, all members must participate in the weekly meetings. No unexcused absences will be permitted.

Participation in discussion is, naturally, heavily dependent on students' preparation of assigned readings and topics. In other words: you must have read the assignment thoroughly before class time. Many students find it helpful to make a list of comments and questions for discussion each week.

### **Presentation of assigned reading**

Prof. Tronchin will assign each student an article or book chapter to present in class and to lead discussion on that topic. Students will meet with Prof. Tronchin during office hours (or other scheduled appointment) to prepare a set of reading questions which will be then submitted to the professor as an electronic document (email of text doc) by Friday morning the week before the discussion, to be disseminated among all students in the seminar.

### **Research paper abstract**

Students will prepare an 800-word abstract for their research presentations/papers, with select bibliography on the topic. The abstract should include a provisional thesis and a summary of the evidence and argument to be presented in the final paper and presentation.

### **Formal presentation**

Each student will give an illustrated twenty-minute presentation on their research projects to the class, Art Department faculty, and other invited guests on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The style of the presentations will be that of a professional conference (like AIA/APA, CAA, or CAMWS) and as such, students will be held to the 20-minute limit and there will be a 5-10-minute period after each presentation for questions and discussion with the audience.

### Peer critiques

All students will submit a written response to their classmates' abstract and formal presentation. These assignments will provide feedback of both style and content and are meant to be a useful means for polishing writing and presentation skills.

### Final research paper

Having written an abstract and presented a talk on a discrete topic related to the subject of our seminar, each student will prepare a final paper. There are a number of goals associated with this assignment: First, to demonstrate that students can carry out an extended, written critical analysis of a theme, question, or topic; second, that students can find and employ a variety of bibliographical resources; third, that students can correctly handle the mechanics of a research paper in the Humanities: illustrations, footnotes, and bibliography. The final paper should incorporate original research as well as feedback from classmates and others (provided through meetings with Prof. Tronchin and feedback after the formal presentation). There is no specific word or page length for this assignment, but typical Senior Seminar papers tend to be between 15-20 pages, including footnotes and bibliography.

### **Grading**

Participation in class discussion	20%
Presentation of assigned reading	10%
Research paper abstract	10%
Formal 20-minute public presentation	20%
Peer critiques (abstract and presentation)	10%
Final research paper	30%

## Course Schedule

NB: Topics and assignments subject to change. Full citations for readings should be available in the course bibliography.

The course bibliography can be found here: <http://bit.ly/domusvillas>

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### August 27

#### **Introduction to the course; introduction to the archaeology of Pompeii and Herculaneum; introduction to Roman houses**

Bergmann, "Housing and Households: The Roman World"

### September 3 (no class, reschedule for \_\_\_\_\_)

#### **Introduction to Roman houses, continued; problems in nomenclature**

Allison 2007, "Domestic Spaces and Activities," in *The World of Pompeii*.

Wallace-Hadrill 2007, "The Development of the Campanian House," in *The World of Pompeii*.

Strocka 2007, "Painting and the 'Four Styles,'" in *The World of Pompeii*.

Clarke 2007, "Mosaics and Stucco," in *The World of Pompeii*.

Beard 2008, "Art Collections on the Bay of Naples"

### September 10

#### **The social history of Roman houses**

Wallace-Hadrill, *Houses and Society*, Chapters 1-3, 7

Hales, Chapters 4-5

### September 17

#### **Some problems, differing approaches, in interpretation of Roman houses**

Leach 1997, "Oecus on Ibycus"

Allison 2001, "Using the Material and the Written Sources"

Berry 1997, "Household Artefacts"

Berry 2007, "*Instrumentum Domesticum*—A Case Study"

Grahame 1997, "Public and Private in the Roman House"

Anderson 2011, "Disruption or Continuity?"

### September 24

#### **Painting in Roman Houses, interpreting wall painting**

Tybout 2001, "Roman wall-painting and social significance"

Bergmann 2001, "A House of Cards?" [response to Tybout 2001]

Bergmann 1994, "The Roman House as Memory Theater"

Clarke 2005, "Augustan Domestic Interiors"

Leach 2002, "How did Roman Viewers Experience Mythological Painting?"

Powers 2011, "Beyond Painting in Pompeii's Houses"

## **October 1**

### **Defining Roman Villas**

Bodel 1997, "Monumental Villas and Villa Monuments"

Neudecker 1998, "The Roman Villa as Locus of Art Collections"

Wallace-Hadrill 1998, "The Villa as Cultural Symbol"

Purcell 1996, "The Roman garden as domestic building"

Tronchin 2011b, "Art, Nature, City, Country, and the Problem of Villa Imitation"

## **October 8**

### **Sculpture in *domus* and villas**

Bartman 1995, "Sculptural Collecting and Display in the Private Realm"

Dwyer 2012, "Collectible Singletons"

Tronchin 2011a, "The Sculpture of the Casa di Octavius Quartio at Pompeii"

Warden and Romano 1994, "The Course of Glory"

Mattusch 2010, "Programming Sculpture?"

DeCaro 1987, "Sculptures of the Villa of Poppaea at Oplontis"

## **October 15** (no class, Fall Recess)

## **October 22**

### **Discussion of research topics**

Students should meet with Prof. Tronchin this week to discuss research topics one-on-one and to discuss the abstract.

## **October 29**

### **>>Paper abstracts due**

### **Social status and Roman houses**

Zanker 1998, "The Domestic Arts in Pompeii," in *Pompeii: Public and Private Life*

Petersen 2006, Chapters 4-5 in *The Freedman in Roman Art and Art History*

## **November 5**

### **Newer approaches in the study of Roman houses; archaeology & texts as "strange bedfellows"?**

Platt 2002, "Viewing, Desiring, Believing"

Mayer 2012, "From Silver Cups to Garden Gnomes"

Bryson 1994, "Philostratus and the Imaginary Museum"

Bergmann 1991, "Painted Perspectives of a Villa Visit"

Tronchin 2012b, "Roman Collecting, Decorating, and Eclectic Practice in the Textual Sources"

**November 12**

**Dress rehearsal for presentations**

**November 19**

**Presentations**

**November 26**

**>>Peer critiques due**

**Incorporating feedback from presentations, “workshopping” research papers**

**December 3**

**>>Papers due**

**Final thoughts, odds & ends**