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CLAS 180H.01: Environment and Nature in the Classical World

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CLAS 180H, Pompeii: Environment and Nature in the Ancient World, Spring, 2020



Course Information

- Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:20 pm
- Location: Liberal Arts 106

Contact Information

- Instructor: Dr. Megan Bowen
- Office Hours: Mon. 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Tues. 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, and by appointment
- Office: Liberal Arts 439
- Pronouns: she/her/hers
- Email: megan.bowen@mso.umt.edu

Course Description

An interdisciplinary survey of ancient Roman attitudes towards the environment through the lens of the physical and cultural landscapes of the ancient Bay of Naples and the city of Pompeii. The course examines the intellectual and literary history of Roman environmental thought and human interaction with landscape through literature, geology, geography, archaeology, art history, and philosophy.

Course Outcomes

- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use Classics-specific writing conventions
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

Required Texts

- Course Pack (printed only)
- Lucretius. *On the Nature of Things*. Translated by Martin F. Smith. Hackett. ISBN: 9780872205871
- Seneca. *Natural Questions*. Translated by Harry M. Hine. University of Chicago. ISBN: 9780226748399

*Note that additional resources and assignments will be provided online via Moodle

Course Requirements

Attendance (10%)

Attendance in class is mandatory. It is imperative to be present, engaged, and respectful for every class. Each class you will be assigned an attendance grade out of 10. Being physically present earns you 10 points. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, family emergency, or approved athletic travel), please contact me within 24 hours. Please also note that the homework schedule is subject to change. If you must be absent be sure to contact me or a classmate in order to ensure you complete the proper homework assignment.

Engaged Participation (15%)

15 % of your grade can be earned through participating in class. Each class you will be assigned a participation grade out of 10. Engaged participation includes **not using phones/social media during class**, sharing ideas, asking thoughtful /specific questions, actively and respectfully listening to your peers, and **bringing a copy of the text to class**. Using technology (phone, computers, etc.) for anything unrelated to class, will result in **a zero for the day**. Cell phone use and laptop multitasking in class hurt not only you, but also your peers ([laptop multitasking in the classroom](#)).

Moodle Forums (25%)

Each student must post blog-style notes on Moodle for selected readings (listed on the syllabus) **by midnight on the day preceding the class**. Choose a passage/section from the readings, video, or podcast that you find problematic or thought-provoking and analyze it. Your comment (at least 2 paragraphs, single spaced) should engage closely with at least one of the readings, videos, or podcasts assigned for the week. Your comment may formulate a question, point out problems in a scholarly argument, or note the implications of a text for themes we have been exploring in class. Your note will be graded on 1-5 scale and judged on your ability to demonstrate that you have completed the reading and thought critically about the text/video/podcast. If discussion lags and it seems that readings have not been completed, **there may be unannounced reading quizzes** in class that will contribute to your moodle forum grade.

Syllabus and Writing with Sources Quiz (5%)

To ensure you understand the syllabus and how to use sources in your writing there will be two short quizzes administered via moodle. You may use any resource besides other people while completing these quizzes (i.e. you may use the syllabus or videos while you are taking the quiz). Due **January 22**.

Roman House Project (5%)

For this assignment you will be given the floor plan of a Roman villa and be asked to label various parts of it as well as answer a few accompanying questions. The goals of this assignment are to understand and analyze how social structures are reflected in the Roman house and to understand how to imagine and interpret two dimensional plans as representations of three dimensional space. Due in moodle **February 19**.

Research Paper Proposal (5%)

Students will be expected to complete a research paper of 6-7 pages (1-inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font). A proposal of your topic will be due **February 12** that includes a general description of your topic, what "question" you intend to answer, and a preliminary bibliography with at least 3 secondary sources and 1 primary source (c. 1 page total).

Research Paper Draft (10%)

A full draft of your paper will be due **March 27** in moodle so that I may provide feedback for your final paper.

Research Paper (20%)

Students will be expected to complete a research paper of 6-7 pages (1-inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font). You will choose your own topic related to nature

and environment in the ancient world and integrate research from both primary (i.e. ancient) and secondary (i.e. modern) sources. Further instructions and requirements will be distributed in class and on moodle. Due by Monday, **May 4**.

Research Paper Presentation (5%)

Students will be expected to give a 3-5 minute presentation on their research papers during the final exam period, Monday **May 4**.

Grading Scale

A	94–100%
A-	90–93%
B+	87–89%
B	83–86%
B-	80–82%
C+	77–79%
C	73–76%
C-	70–72%
D+	67–69%
D	63–66%
D-	60–62%
F	59% or Below

Other Information

Late Quizzes, Assignments, and Absences

If you expect to miss a class, quiz, or assignment, arrangements must be made ahead of time to make it up. If there is an unexpected emergency that results in your absence or non-completion of an assignment, you must email me within 24 hours to avoid penalties. Otherwise, a **letter grade per day** will be deducted from your score. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to make sure you understand that day's material (i.e. by consulting a classmate or attending office hours). For the paper and proposal you may have **an automatic 48-hour extension** (i.e. I do not want to know the reason for extension), provided you **email me in advance** of the due date. Otherwise a letter grade will be deducted from the paper/proposal for each overdue day.

Classics-specific Resources

In addition to support for academic needs, there is also monetary support for students studying ancient Greece and Rome who are struggling to purchase materials. If you are struggling financially, The Sportula: Microgrants for Classics Students can help. You can contact them @ <https://thesportula.wordpress.com/>

[The Asian and Asian American Classical Caucus](#) supports, connects, mentors, and encourages Asian and Asian American scholars of Classics and the ancient Mediterranean.

[The Classics and Social Justice Group](#) is made up of scholars in the field who are working in various ways on social justice, using Classics.

[The Lambda Classical Caucus](#) is a coalition of queer Classicists, and their friends and supporters.

[Pharos](#) is a platform where you can learn about and respond to appropriations of Greco-Roman antiquity by hate groups online.

Writing and Public Speaking Center

The [writing and public speaking center](#) is an excellent resource for help with writing assignments. Please consider booking an appointment for feedback on class papers. They offer:

- one-to-one writing and public speaking tutoring (available on a by-appointment and drop-in basis)
- Guidance interpreting assignments
- Reader feedback on any communication task, including research proposals and papers, response papers, reports, literature reviews, speeches, scholarship applications, graduate school applications, thesis projects, presentations, etc.
- Help developing strategies for revision at any stage of a writing or presentation planning process
- Workshops on specific types of writing and on the various parts of a writing process

Academic Honesty

All written work submitted for this course must be your own in both content and expression. Students are responsible for complying with the UM Student Conduct Code. Possible sanctions for misconduct range from failure on an assignment to expulsion from the university. The complete code can be found on the Student Affairs webpage at [UM Student Conduct Code](#).

Accommodations

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction for students with disabilities in collaboration with instructors and Disability Services for Students, which is located in

Lommasson Center 154. The University does not permit fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change as necessary) *All readings and assignments due on the day listed except as otherwise noted*

Week 1: Meet the Romans

Monday January 13: Welcome to Pompeii!

Wednesday January 15: Intro to Roman History

- Watch Mary Beard's "Meet the Romans" (Moodle)
- Watch "The History of Rome in 20 minutes" (Moodle)
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday January 14 by midnight**)

Week 2: Roman Culture

Monday January 20: No class

Wednesday January 22: Introduction to Roman Culture

- Watch Video on the Close Reading Method (Moodle)
- Watch Video on Writing With Sources (Moodle)
- Watch Video on Plagiarism (Moodle)
- Complete **writing with sources quiz & syllabus quiz** by end of day (Moodle)

Week 3: Setting

Monday January 27: Pompeii

- [Watch](#) Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit - Episode 2:
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday January 26 by midnight**)

Wednesday January 29: Pompeii Herculaneum and other sites

- **Course pack due:** in class you will receive credit for showing me a printed copy of the course pack readings
- Read *Fires of Vesuvius*, introduction, Mary Beard
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday January 28 by midnight**)

Week 4: Climate and Astronomy

Monday February 3: Climate

- Read "Reconstructing Roman Climate" in course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday February 2 by midnight**)

Wednesday February 5: Astronomy

- Read Seneca's *Natural Questions* "On Comets," pages 115-35.
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday February 5 by midnight**)

Week 5: Villas

Monday February 10: Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous

- Read "Pliny 2.17 and 5.6" in course pack
- Read "Horace Odes 2.18" in course pack
- Read "Silvae 1.5" and "Silvae 2.2" in course pack
- Moodle forum (**due Sunday February 9 by midnight**)

Wednesday February 12: Luxury & Leisure

- Research paper proposal **due by end of day in moodle**

Week 6: Gods

Monday February 17: No class

Wednesday February 19: Gods

- **Roman House Project** due by end of day in Moodle

Week 7: Philosophy and Science

Monday February 24: Intro to philosophy and science

- Listen to "[David Sedley on Stoicism](#)"
- Read Seneca's *Natural Questions*, "Seneca and His World," pages vii-xix (stop at Senecan Tragedy), "Translator's Introduction," pages 1-22, and "On Fires," pages 136-62
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday February 23 by midnight**)

Wednesday February 26: Writing Workshop

- No homework (but note that next week's reading is long)

Week 8: Lucretius

Monday March 2: Lucretius

- Read Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things* pages 1-98
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday March 1 by midnight**)

Wednesday March 4: Lucretius

- Read Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things* pages 98-211
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday March 3 by midnight**)

Week 9: Agriculture and Gardens

Monday March 9: Agriculture

- Read "Vergil's Georgics Book 2" in course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday March 8 by midnight**)

Wednesday March 11: Gardens

- Read "Columella Book 10" in course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday March 10 by midnight**)

Spring Break: No classes March 16–20

Week 10: Animals

Monday March 23: Animals

- Read "Plutarch on the Cleverness of Animals" in the course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday March 24 by midnight**)

Wednesday March 25: No class

- Work on research paper draft **due in moodle Friday March 27 by midnight**

Week 11: Water and Forests

Monday March 30: Water

- Read Seneca's *Natural Questions*, "On Terrestrial Waters" pages 25-52
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday March 29 by midnight**)

Wednesday April 1: Forests

- Read "Deforestation, Overgrazing, and Erosion" in course pack
- Complete moodle forum (**due Tuesday March 31 by midnight**)

Week 12: Warfare and Mining

Monday April 6: Warfare's effects on environment

- Read "War and the Environment" in course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Sunday April 5 by midnight**)

Wednesday April 8: Mining

- Read "Pliny the Elder on gold and silver" in course pack
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday April 7 by midnight**)

Week 13: The Eruption

Monday April 13: *Guest Lecture*

- Dave Bowen will lecture on geologic chronicles of a catastrophe
- Read "Vesuvius: A Biography, Scarth 1-3" in course pack

Wednesday April 15: *Literature and the Eruption*

- Read "Pliny the Younger on Eruption" in course pack
- Read Seneca's *Natural Questions*, "On Earthquakes," pages 87-114
- Post in Moodle forum (**due Tuesday April 14 by midnight**)

Week 14: The Eruption

Monday April 20: *Watch Pompeii*

Wednesday April 22: *Watch Pompeii*

Week 15: Aftermath and Recovery

Monday April 27: *Campania Post- Eruption*

- Read "Can You Dig It?" in course pack

Wednesday April 29: *Wrap-Up, Pompeii & Tourism*

- Read "Pompeii and Its Material Productions" in course pack

Finals Week

Monday May 4: *Final period 3:20 pm–5:20 pm*

- Papers due (in moodle)
- 3-5 minute paper presentations