# Ancient Topography

## Prof. Giuseppina Legrottaglie

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Human history unfurls through symbiotic relations between people and the environment in which they live: just as the land determines and affects people’s decision-making, it is also shaped by the individuals who inhabit it and translate its socio-economic dynamics.

Ancient Topography deals with people and the environment as a Science for studying territories managed by people. The aim of the course is to provide students with useful methodological tools for undertaking topographic-style research. The first part will look at issues linked with the use of tools and the main different information sources (cartography, aerial photography, GIS, literary, epigraphic, itinerant, legal, archaeological and toponomastic sources; iconographic sources), highlighting the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of topographic research. The second part will focus on landscape management in ancient societies, with special reference to mobility by sea*.*

By the end of the course, students will be able to examine and critically discuss issues of a topographical nature, demonstrating their understanding of specific methods used in the discipline. They will also be able to read planimetries and maps of various types, and set up a simple study, combining and tailoring sources to suit their objectives.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part 1:

Features and aims of Ancient Topography; history of the subject; lines of research and methodology; main tools and sources of information for studying a territory.

Second Part

Go to sea in Roman times: coastal landscapes and ports; the main maritime routes; wrecks and trade on the sea. Integration with the river network and terrestrial mobility.

***READING LIST***

Course notes, together with illustrative material provided by the tutor.

Textbook of reference: M. Antico Gallina, *Dall’immagine cartografica alla ricostruzione storica,* Led, Milan, 1994.

M. Torelli, *La formazione della vill*a, in Storia di Roma 2: L’impero mediterraneo I. La repubblica imperiale, Turin, 1990, p. 123-132.

A. Carandini-A. Ricci, *Settefinestre: una villa schiavistica nell'Etruria romana*, vol I, Modena 1985.

Specific bibliography will be indicated during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures with slides.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. Starting from the slides shown in class students have to illustrate the different case studies proving that they have assimilated the main issues of the discipline and that they know how to apply the specific methodology. Students may also be asked to read topographical maps, planimetries and aerial photographs.

Students will be assessed on: relevance of their answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, ability to structure reasoned and coherent discourse and ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Notes taken in lectures constitute and integral part of exam preparation; attendance is therefore strongly encouraged.

*Prerequisites*

As it is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites terms of content. However, students are expected to have basic geographical skills and textbook-level knowledge of the principal events and developments in ancient history, particularly Ancient Rome. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified in lectures and remedied with tailored interventions.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.