**Etruscology**

Prof. Giorgio Baratti

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

The 30-hour course aims to provide students with basic knowledge of the Etruscans during the population of pre-Roman Italy and the Mediterranean from the end of the Bronze Age, throughout the Iron Age up until Romanisation. Lectures will explain the Etruscan civilization through archaeological data, in the light of field surveys and the most recent studies. They will then analyse the role of the Etruscans within the main economic and social phenomena of pre-Roman Italy, settlement dynamics and systems of relationship and exchange with the Greek and Phoenician world in the Mediterranean and with transalpine and contemporary cultures.

At the end of the course, students will know the main aspects of Etruscan culture with a particular focus on archaeological contexts, productions, key monuments and aspects of language and religious practices.

In light of this content and of the texts chosen to further explore the topics addressed, students will also have acquired basic knowledge of the methodological aspects related to the analysis of the population of pre-Roman Italy at the end of the Bronze Age and throughout the Iron Age. They will also learn the main problems associated with the definition of the ‘peoples’ of literary tradition in relation to the emergence of specific regional entities and through the analysis of archaeological indicators, palaeoeconomic data, palaeoenvironmental data and historical sources in pre-Roman Italy. In this way, students will acquire the preliminary critical tools they need to continue their archaeological studies, but also historical and documentary studies, so that they can reflect more generally on the relationship between archaeology, the interpretation and application of sources and major recent developments regarding ethnicity and related concepts in contemporary cultural anthropology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Through the analysis of archaeological contexts and a methodological approach to historical and archaeological sources, the course will illustrate Etruscan development with reference to population settlement in ancient Italy and international relations from the end of the second millennium BC to Romanisation. The course will focus on the main stages of this process, starting with population dynamics between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, and the Villanovan phase (9th-8th centuries BC) with the birth of proto-urbancentres and the development of new systems of socio-political organisation; leading into the Orientalising period (8th-7th centuries BC), aristocracies and princes with their palaces and grand funereal architecture, Mediterranean exchange and the significant development of artistic production; the Archaic period (6th century BC) and the construction of urban monuments, relationships with Greek cultures in the east, development of the great arts, and Etruscan settlement in the Po Basinand its impact on subsequent population dynamics in northern Italy; the Classical and Hellenistic periods (5th-3rd centuries BC), conflict with Rome and the end of Etruscan civilisation. The key features of the Etruscan religion will also be outlined: the pantheon, aspects of devotion and its implications on the social structure of the Etruscan world. Finally, the course will focus on the main aspects of the Etruscan language and on its writing - particularly as regards the value of epigraphic artefacts – as a means of understanding Etruscan social and political relations.

***READING LIST***

Suggested texts

1. Christopher Smith, *Gli etruschi*, Hoepli 2018
2. Ugo Fabietti, *Introduzione* da L’identità etnica. Storia e critica di un concetto equivoco. Roma 2013, pp. 13-25.
3. A.M. Bietti Sestieri, *Teorie, metodi e tecniche*. Da L’Italia nell’età del bronzo e del ferro. Dalle palafitte a Romolo (2200-700 a.C.), Roma 2010, pp.18-28.
4. [G. Sassatelli](https://www.ibs.it/libri/autori/Giuseppe%20Sassatelli) [G. M. Della Fina](https://www.ibs.it/libri/autori/Giuseppe%20M.%20Della%20Fina), Gli Etruschi, Milano 2013 i capitoli: *La lingua, L' Etruria padana. L' Etruria campana.*
5. M. Cristofani, Gli Etruschi. Una nuova immagine, Firenze 1983, i capitoli: (Maggiani A., Simon E. ), *II pensiero scientifico e religioso*, *Agricoltori*, *artigiani*. *Gli influssi del Vicino Oriente sull’Etruria*, *Roma conquista l'Etruria.*
6. Course notes and slides.

Further information and study material - and possible changes - regarding the reading list will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures supplemented with visual resources and images related to the topics covered, footage of new excavations and recent finds in the study of Etruscan and pre-Roman Italy.

Some lectures will take place in the laboratory, so that students can directly view examples of the Etruscan artefacts conserved in the UC collections. There will also be an educational visit to Etruscan and pre-Roman contexts, conserved in Milan at the Museo Archeologico, offering students their first direct contact with archaeological material related to the course topics.

Conditions and interest levels permitting, there may also be educational visits to exhibitions or temporary installations relevant to the course topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam designed to evaluate their knowledge of the contents and method illustrated in class and refined by reading the texts on the reading list. Assessment criteria include the ability to critically contextualise the phases and developments of the Etruscan civilisation, and students’ understanding of manufacturing and settlements with reference to the topics examined during lectures and in the reading list; during the exam, students may be offered images relating to relevant aspects of course content as points of reference.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*PREREQUISITES*

No special prerequisites required. In order to better understand some of the historical and archaeological problems faced, students are encouraged to refresh their basic knowledge of the main historical stages in the Western Mediterranean in the first millennium BC. Before the beginning of the course, or at the start of the course, students can request guidance and further suggestions directly from the lecturer (including by email).

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.