ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF SICILY

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:50 pm - April 5 – June 7
Preliminary Syllabus and Course Outline

Course Aims:

The poet Goethe said that Sicily was the key to Italy and that one cannot understand Italy without Sicily. Sicily has long been known since the Greeks as Persephone’s Island. Greek poet Pindar said that Akragas (Agrigento, with its Vale of Temples), is the loveliest city in the world built by mortals. Goethe also claimed that the view from a high seat in Taormina’s Greco-Roman theater offered the best view in the world. Others claim the best Greek Temples, Roman mosaics and Byzantine biblical art are also in Sicily. How does Sicily rate these superlatives and could they be true? The instructor of this course has also written books of poetry in which his love of Sicily figures prominently.

Sicily is the largest and loveliest island in the Mediterranean as well as the most culturally rich. It sits at the crossroads of many cultures that colonized it throughout the millennia, from the Phoenicians onward. Sicily’s art and architecture, not surprisingly, include some of the best surviving Greek temples and theaters, Roman villas and mosaics, Islamic structures, Byzantine churches, Norman palaces, Baroque cathedrals, and of course, remarkable Caravaggio and Antonella da Messina paintings.

In addition, Sicily is likely one locus of Homeric myths: Scylla and Charybdis, the Cyclops Polyphemus on Mount Etna, and the nymph Arethusa. Some of the finest archaeological museums in the world are also found at Palermo, Siracusa, and Agrigento. Sicily’s riches are relatively unknown to most people, and greater familiarity with its cultural, archaeological, and art treasures is overdue.

This ten week course treats Sicily chronologically through almost four millennia via the cultures that have left indelible reminders of their past along its beautiful coastlines, fertile valleys, and rugged mountains. The course will also draw on science, history, archaeology, literature, and art.

Course Requirements:

Students attend ten lectures and complete assigned readings from assigned or recommended texts, and supplemental texts as provided. If taken for credit, a brief 10 page critical paper will be completed with topic having instructor consent.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
ARTH 41  Art and Archaeology of Sicily - Spring 2017 - Course Outline
Dr. Patrick Hunt, Stanford

Course Texts:

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. (1962) *The Siren and Selected Writings*. (recommended)
Harville, 1995 (paperback) (*Il Professore e la Sirena* excerpt in translation).
Also note online readings will be provided as linked below.

Course Outline:

4/5 Sicily from Prehistory
Reading: Norwich, *Sicily*, Preface, Introduction
(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Diodorus_Siculus/5A*.html)
Duncan Caldwell, photographer “Sicilian Rock Art” [Paleolithic Addauro Cave]
(http://www.duncancaldwell.com/Site/Rock_Art_Photos/Pages/The_rock_art_of_Sicily.html)

4/12 Sicily in the Phoenician (and Punic) Era
Reading: Norwich, ch. 2 (20-35)
(http://www.bestofsicily.com/mag/art150.htm)

4/19 Sicily in the Greek Era: Best Greek Temples
Reading: Norwich, ch. 1, (3-19)
(http://www.electrummagazine.com/2012/04/homeric-wine-sicilian-wines-taste-like-sunshine-should-in-taormina/)

4/26 Sicily in Mythology

5/3 Roman Sicily and Punic Wars to Islamic Sicily: Best Roman Mosaics
Reading: Norwich, ch. 3 (36-59)
Cicero, *Against Verres*, (First Pleading).
(http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Against_Verres/First_pleading)
Alastair Stooke, “Sicily: A Miracle at Villa del Casale” *The Telegraph* (UK) 9/13/12
(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/italy/sicily/articles/Sicily-a-miracle-at-Villa-del-Casale/)

5/10 Byzantine and Norman Medieval Sicily, Federico II “Stupor Mundi”
Reading: Norwich, chs. 4-6 (60-118)
(http://www.electrummagazine.com/2012/02/medieval-mosaic-inspired-by-sassanian-art/)
P. Hunt, “Medieval Triumph of Death, Palazzo Abbatellis, Palermo.”
Electrum Magazine (April 2012)
(http://www.electrummagazine.com/2012/04/411/)
(http://www.electrummagazine.com/2011/07/monreale-the-golden-temple/)
5/17 Renaissance Sicily: Boccaccio to Antonello
Reading: Norwich, chs. 7-8 (119-53)
“Antonello da Messina: Sicily’s Renaissance Master”
(http://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/Antonello_da_Messina_Sicily’s_Renaissance_Master)

5/24 Baroque Sicily and Caravaggio
Reading: Norwich, ch. 9 (138-53)
P. Hunt, “Caravaggio’s Raising of Lazarus” 1609, New Observations” Philolog
(http://altmarius.ning.com/profiles/blogs/caravaggio-raising-of-lazarus-1609-new-observations)

5/31 Neoclassical Sicily, Goethe, Villa Palagonia, the Grand Tour and Art
Reading: Norwich, chs. 10-11 (178-221)
Heinrich Hall, “Another View: The Key to Everything – Goethe in Sicily”
(http://www.petersommer.com/blog/archaeology-history/goethe-in-sicily/)
with excerpts from Goethe’s 1787 Italian Journey (Sicily)

6/7 Modern Sicily from Garibaldi to 21st Century
Reading: Norwich, chs. 14-17 & Epilogue  (258-332)
“Garibaldi in Sicily” (June 4, 1860) New York Times Archives
“The Sicilian Revolution, The Victories of Garibaldi, Fall of Palermo” New York Times Archives, repr, from The London Times (June 20, 1860)
“Giovanni Falcone: Obituary” The Telegraph (May, 1992) London
(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/law-obituaries/5367721/Giovanni-Falcone.html)
“Sicilian Vespers: A Wave of Arrests Hits the Sicilian Mafia.” The Economist (Dec. 18, 2008)
(http://www.economist.com/node/12815643)

Note: instructor reserves right to amend schedule