CIEE Rome, Italy

Course title: Mythology and Architecture in Rome
Course code: ARCH 3001 ROIT
Programs offering course: Rome Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Art and Architecture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring Block III 2021

Course Description

Each building in Rome, every fountain and every sculpture hide and reveal at the same time centuries of history, legends and myths. By studying the myths and their origins, students will be able to explore and recognize the relationship between mythology and architecture, as exemplified by buildings, paintings and sculpture. The course will give students the opportunity to survey the use of mythology throughout the centuries, from the ancient classical period to modern times.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Recognize the relationship between architecture, society and mythology in ancient Rome;
- Estimate social implications of myths and beliefs;
- Develop consistent arguments in observing, interpreting and evaluating buildings, squares, fountains;
- Demonstrate a clear knowledge of specific vocabulary and techniques in the field of architecture;
- Estimate the cultural and social role of mythology in shaping and representing universal values;
- Prove the ability to research, critically analyze and interpret ancient myths through their current representations;
- Examine the representation of Italian and Roman societies through architecture.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lectures, PowerPoint presentations, class debates, walking tours, and conversations with guest speakers.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Quizzes (4x) 20%
2. Oral Presentation 15%
3. Research Paper 20%
4. Final Exam 25%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Quizzes (4x)

Students will take 4 quizzes (15 mins each) throughout the course. Each quiz, based on the topics discussed during classes, will include true and false, multiple choice and images identifications.

Oral Presentation
Topics for oral presentation will be chosen from a list provided by the professor in week 2. Students will be required to deliver a presentation (10 to 15 mins) to the class during the relevant on site class. The professor will provide extensive and precise guidelines.

Research Paper

Students will be required to write a short paper (1350-1450 words) based on their oral presentations. The professor will provide extensive and precise guidelines.

Final Exam

Students will take a final exam at the end of the course. The exam (true and false, multiple choice, images identification and short essays) will cover all topics discussed and analyzed in class.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Introduction / Mythology & Architecture in the Ancient Worlds

Gods & Mythology in the Ancient World

This class will serve as an introduction to the study of ancient mythology and its influence on architecture throughout the centuries. The syllabus will be presented and reviewed, with emphasis on assessment methods and course requirements.

Readings: Class notes; ML: Introduction, CH 1&2

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Greek & Roman Myths

The ancient gods and Epic poems: The Trojan Saga: Iliad and Odyssey

Students will learn about ancient religions and their gods and will start explore their role in the Greek epic poems.

Readings: Class notes; ML: CH 17&18

Class: 2.2 Myths & Sculptures

On Site Class: Centrale Monte Martini Museum

Students will have the opportunity to visit one of the most fascinating museums in Rome and to see on display pedamental sculptures.

Readings: Class notes

Week 3
Class: 3.1 Myth & the Romans

The Aeneid

Students will learn about the myth of Aeneas, who, after fleeing from Troy, landed on the coasts of Italy, thus becoming the ancestor of the Romans.

QUIZ 1
Class: 3.2  Gods & Myths in Ancient Art

**On site class:** Vatican Museums (Pio Clementino and Gregoriano Profano)

The class will focus on how myths and gods were represented in the artistic production (sculpture, paintings, pottery) of the Classical age.

Readings: Class notes

Class: 3.3  Roman Temples & Mythology in the Roman Forum

**On Site Class:** Roman Forum

The temple of Vesta in the Roman Forum represents one of the best surviving examples of the connection between mythology and architecture in the Roman world. Furthermore, students will learn how Roman emperors used mythology to celebrate themselves.

Readings: Class notes; CL: pp 60-65; 72-74; 100-109; CO: 170-175

**Week 4**

Class: 4.1  Myths & Politics in Ancient Rome

**The myths of the foundation of Rome**

In this class students will read some of the surviving sections of Livy’s work on the history of Rome. The attention will be particularly focused on the tales about the foundation of Rome as seen by the Latin historian.

**QUIZ 2**

Readings: Class notes; ML: CH 20; AI: 11-13

Class: 4.2  Hercules & Romulus: the Locations of Myths & Legends

**On Site Class:** Capitoline Museum, the Forum Boarium and its surroundings.

Students will explore the southern bank of the Tiber in search of the locations of the myths of Hercules and of the legends of Romulus as well as visiting selected sections of the Capitoline Museum.

Readings: Class notes; CL: 253-264; AI: 275-285

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1  Myths & Architecture

**Ovid: mythology in Augustan Rome**

This class will be focused on the Latin writer Ovid (1st c. BCE / 1st c. CE), author of *The Metamorphoses*: a poem collecting the stories of more than 250 myths.

**QUIZ 3**

Readings: Class notes; ML: CH 25

Class: 5.2  Ancient Myths & Modern Architecture

**On Site Class:** Villa Medici

Students will have the unique opportunity of an exclusive visit to one of the most beautiful buildings in Rome, today seat of the French Academy. During the visit students will explore the display of mythology in a private 16th c. villa.

Readings: Class notes; Villa Medici: History and Architecture
The visit to the Galleria Borghese will provide the students with an insight of how architects and artists in modern times have revisited some of the most famous passages of the Metamorphoses and of the Aeneid.

Readings: Class notes

Week 6
Class: 6.1 Myths in Modern Art

**Ancient Myth and modern architecture: Ovid and the Metamorphoses at the Villa Farnesina**

On Site Class: Villa Farnesina

This class will be focused on the Latin writer Ovid (1st c. BCE / 1st c. CE), author of the The Metamorphoses, one of the most popular books in ancient Rome and then in the Renaissance. Students will visit one of the jewels of Renaissance architecture in Rome, which integrate mythology in a modern art context.

Readings: Class notes; ML: CH 7

Class: 6.2 Review Class

Students will have the opportunity to review all the topics discussed during the course.

**Due date for submission of Research paper**

Class: 6.3 Final Exam

**Course Materials**

**Readings**

NOTE: Further reading materials will be assigned on a week-by-week basis.

Professor will provide a complete list of complementary readings, media sources and articles published in national and international media in order to stimulate class debates and activities.

C0 = Connelly, P, The Ancient City, Oxford University Press, 1998
WP = Ward Perkins, Roman Imperial Architecture, Yale University Press, 1981