

Advanced Seminar in the Humanities 2018– 2019

Literature and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece, Rome, and the Near East



From March 12 to March 23, 2018 Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, in cooperation with Venice International University, will offer an advanced seminar on "Literature and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece, Rome and the Near East".

The Program

The program is conceived as a two year commitment over two successive years (2018 and 2019). The first session (March 12-23, 2018) will consist of lectures by scholars with a seminar approach on the origins and development of literary genres and literacy in Ancient Greece, Rome and the Near East. Some of the lectures will run simultaneously and will be devoted respectively to the interpretation of specific classical and near Eastern texts, with more focus on textual analysis. An evening lecture by an invited speaker special is also under consideration.

The lectures will alternate with a series of site visits, for example, to the Marciana Library, the Library of San Lazzaro degli Armeni, and the Basilica of San Marco.

The aim of the program is firstly to investigate the relationship between themes, motifs and structures of the texts and/or of the myths involved, starting with the early examples of epic poetry and of wisdom and didactic literature; secondly, to examine the processes involved in their transmission and preservation in both oral and written forms. A variety of issues concerning recently published texts and/or the history of literate cultures may also be reviewed, such as, for example, the textual traditions, the creation and organization of libraries, the classification of genres, and the relationship between literature and politics, and between literature and religion.

During the first session the fellows will identify a research project according to their own scholarly interests and under the supervision of one of the faculty. The research project will be presented in the form of an essay of about 15/20 pages in the second session of the seminar, which will run in 2019 (an 8-day slot, still to be determined).

The second session will also host a number of lectures by invited speakers. The invited speakers in the last session of the seminar were Alan Cameron (Columbia University), Peter Machinist (Harvard Divinity School), Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) and Matthew Leigh (St Anne's College, Oxford).



The Faculty

The faculty consists of scholars active in the field of Greek, Latin and Ancient Near Eastern literature, including: Alessandro Barchiesi (New York University); Ettore Cingano (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia); Yoram Cohen (Tel Aviv University); Joy Connolly (City University of New York); Rocio Da Riva (Universitat de Barcelona); Richard Hunter (Trinity College, Cambridge); Peter Machinist (Harvard Divinity School); Lucio Milano (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia); Dirk Obbink (Christ Church, Oxford); Beate Pongratz-Leisten (New York University); Alessandro Schiesaro (University of Manchester); David Sider (New York University).

Prerequisites

Good knowledge of Greek and Latin, and/or of some of the ancient Near Eastern languages, is expected. All the lectures will be in English. A good knowledge of spoken and written English is therefore a further prerequisite.

Where?

The lectures will take place in Venice (Italy) at Venice International University, on the Island of San Servolo, facing the Basilica di San Marco.

Fellows and faculty will arrive on Sunday, March 11; they will be hosted in the residential halls on the island of San Servolo. Fellows will share twin rooms with ensuite bathroom or 3-bed rooms with 2 ensuite bathrooms.

Lunch and dinner are served at the cafeteria on the Island of San Servolo.

The program will cover room, board and local transport in Venice for the fellows accepted.

Who is it for?

The program is open to 20 fellows who will be either in an advanced stage of doctoral research, or recently completed Ph.D.s. The candidates will be selected by a committee whose decision will be final.

Day of arrival: Sunday March 11, 2018

Day of departure: Saturday March 23, 2018

Application deadline: January 7, 2018

Conveners:

Ettore Cingano, professor of Greek Literature, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Lucio Milano, professor of History of the Ancient Near East, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia



Application forms are available on-line at

<http://www.univiu.org/homepage/study/memebers-autonomous-programs/classics-advanced-seminar>

The completed form together with the requested documents should be sent by e-mail, fax or regular mail to Venice International University (see address below) and **must reach our offices no later than January 7, 2018.**

Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by January 15, 2018.

For information, please contact:

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Venice International University

Ref: Literature and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece, Rome and the Near East

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