

# FUSION EXPERIENCE – SICILY

## ARCHAEOLOGY: DIGGING UP THE PAST

- **CLST 334R – *Introduction to Classical Archaeology* (cross-lists with ANTH 334)**  
**Instructor: Dr Antonino Facella, Scuola Superiore Normale di Pisa.**
- **CLST 276 – *World of Classical Rome* (Tier 2 History Core)**  
**Instructor: Dr Alexander Evers, Associate Dean, John Felice Rome Center**

In this unique Summer Programme you will learn about the city of Rome – *Umbilicus Mundi*, the navel of the world, the centre of civilization, by far the greatest city in Antiquity – and how it established itself as the world’s superpower in Classical Antiquity, occupying almost all the parts of the then-known world. The magnificent island of Sicily was Rome’s first colony outside Italy – its first step towards world domination. This “Fusion Experience” of two courses will bring history and archaeology together in one package. You will learn how essential it is to combine all the information available to you, whether it is in written records or hidden in the ground, in order to grasp a better understanding of our past – to be learnt today, to work towards a better future. Ancient sources and modern books will give you the **text** – with your own hands you will be able to dig up the actual **context!**

After two weeks in **Rome**, at the campus of the John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University Chicago, you will transfer to the island of **Sicily**, to the province of Ragusa, to **Cifali Favarotta**. There, you will be uncovering a Roman villa, which has its foundations in much earlier times, before the Romans discovered Sicily, and which continued right into the Middle Ages, beyond the Arab invasions, until Byzantium took control of the island. Many layers of history can be found in the Sicilian soil – but you will be looking for the times of Sulla, Pompey, Julius Caesar, and Augustus. You will be staying close to the archaeological site (and not far from the Sicilian beaches!) in a beautiful *Agriturismo* – an old, converted farmstead, with all the comforts that you could possibly wish for after a day of digging up the past!\*

### ***CLST 276 – The World of Classical Rome***

Rome, the “most splendid of splendid cities”, counted approximately one million inhabitants in its hey-day. Lavish provisions of food and wine, as well as spectacles and various forms of urban decoration, magnificent temples and public buildings were pretty much the norm. Public baths, gardens, libraries, circuses, theatres and amphitheaters gave access to all the citizens of Rome. An elaborate network of roads and aqueducts, well-maintained throughout the centuries, all led to the Eternal City. At the time, it must have seemed that Rome would never end!

*The World of Classical Rome* takes us on a journey – a journey through time. This course investigates the historical development of the Roman people through study of their history, politics, society and culture especially in the 1st centuries BC and AD, the turning points of Republican and Imperial Rome. Classical Rome takes us right back to some of the major characters of Roman history: to the Scipio clan, the Gracchi, Marius, Sulla, Pompeius, Julius Caesar himself, and Octavian, who became *Augustus* in 27 BC. It was a time of chaos, but also one of gradual transformation, and even of a certain degree of

continuity. Both literary sources and archaeology and epigraphy shall be combined to show how classical Rome took shape, was modified, but at the same time was carried further by the likes of *Augustus*. History is never a single-minded and uniform matter. Primary sources and secondary literature reveal the drama of the history, society, politics, and culture of Classical Rome and its growing empire.

One of the main problems concerning the studies of Rome and of the Ancient World in general is always one of evidence. Also in this particular case one has to rely on biased, and often fragmented literary sources. Archaeology and epigraphy supplement the literary evidence, but also provide information that partly stands completely on its own. All the evidence has to be weighed with extreme care and consideration.

### **CLST 334R – *Introduction to Classical Archaeology***

With special, though not exclusive, reference to the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, this course offers an updated appreciation of modern Archaeology with its scientific methodologies for the recovery, the interpretation and the presentation of the surviving evidence from the past. At the same time you will have a chance to see a few key-points in the historical process that has brought our discipline to its present form. Beyond mass-myth and misconceptions, the course introduces and discusses fieldwork, finds, sites and museums as “tools” for research and knowledge, also in connection with the extremely complex problems met in the conservation and in the presentation of the evidence.

This course aims at a synthetic presentation of the scientific nature of archaeology today, far beyond the “treasure-hunt” aura still attributed to it – **NO** Indiana Jones! Special attention is given to its interdisciplinary nature, sharing the aims of all the Historical Sciences while using some of the most sophisticated methodologies and tools of modern science. You will be introduced to the complex methodologies used not only to protect and interpret archaeological “data” but also to transform them into historical reconstructions and eventually in understandable educational messages accessible both in sites and museums. In this context, reference will be made some widely debated problems like the “commodification” of Cultural Heritage or the use of it for stressing (or actually fabricating) collective identities.

This course will also guide you to see how something like Archaeology was first born and how much mankind’s approach towards the past has changed, within the Mediterranean world, from ancient Greece to modern Europe. This overview of the historical processes of which modern Archaeology is the result will culminate with the truly exceptional case-study of our Roman villa in Sicily.

The complex structure of the course will challenge your ability to accept very different approaches taken, across time and space, to come to terms with our own and, for that matter, with other people’s past. At the same time, the “transversal” views offered, will show how many sciences and disciplines and how many professions and technologies can actually contribute to “give a future to our past.”

\*Some details subject to change.