



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: The Art of Pompeii

Course code

Q00021473

Course date

Start: 24/04/25

End: 15/05/25

Number of classes

4 sessions

Timetable

Thu 24th Apr, 14:00 to 16:00

Thu 1st May, 14:00 to 16:00

Thu 8th May, 14:00 to 16:00

Thu 15th May, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £29.60

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

In this course, we will explore the art that has been uncovered and continues to be uncovered in Pompeii. We will explore both the variety of frescoes and mosaics that may be seen there. Not only will we analyse and discover individual frescoes and mosaics, we will also discuss the lives of Pompeii's inhabitants and the beliefs and culture which gave rise to them, exploring how art and culture defined these people and their being. There will be scope for lively discussions of the images, and advice given on further reading to enrich your understanding of this fascinating historical moment, arrested by Vesuvio's eruption.

Course description

Pompeii has provided an invaluable insight to the Roman world and many claim it to be the richest archaeological site in the world, because of the amount of raw data it has given scholars.

What is interesting about frescoes (mural paintings) is that they are painted onto freshly-laid or wet lime plaster: 'fresco' means 'fresh'. This way, the paint mixes with the plaster and becomes much more durable. Mosaics, on the other hand, were created using tiny pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. They were artfully arranged to create an elaborate picture. Frescos and mosaics depicted anything from Roman myths, religion, sports, war campaigns or sex. The ubiquity of such imagery and items indicates that the treatment of sexuality in ancient Rome was more relaxed than in current Western culture.

We will discover that what makes these frescoes particularly invaluable to us today is the range of subjects and styles depicted within them. The painting styles are classified into four categories, including the early First Style, which recreated marble-like textures, and the popular Third Style, which divided walls into panels depicting various scenes, such as the paradise garden below. Each style period displays an abundance of detail and provides us with a fascinating snapshot of cultural life in the Roman world.

Come along and tour Pompeii from the comfort of your sitting room.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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