

The Etruscans Syllabus - LLC Winter Session 2023

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Meets via Zoom: A reminder/ link will be sent a few days ahead of time and the link will be re-sent 1 hour before class.

Class dates and time: Wednesday 10am-12pm for 8 weeks, Jan 11 - March 1. There will be a break in the middle of each class.

Course Description:

The Etruscans were the first "superpower" of the Western Mediterranean. Before the Roman Empire, the Etruscan civilization controlled most of the peninsula we now call Italy. They were responsible for teaching the Romans the alphabet and for spreading literacy throughout the Italian peninsula. A vanished culture, their achievements set the stage not only for the development of ancient Roman art and culture but for the Italian Renaissance as well. Often labeled mysterious, as no literature and histories remain, we continue to learn about them through their archaeological sites and tombs. This course will investigate and explore the current thinking about this sophisticated and rich culture, looking at their origins, and all facets of their society, their art, and their interactions with other cultures, notably, Greek and Roman.

Course Objective

An opportunity to share our interest in the Etruscans and to increase our knowledge of their civilization: its origins through its absorption by Rome.

How we'll get started at 10 AM on January 11

In the first hour, after introductions, the class will discuss why we study vanished cultures. In the second hour, Linda will present an overview of the Etruscan civilization, time frame, geography, origins, and historical context.

Participants' roles after January 11

Participants will select a topic to present from the list provided (see Class Calendar). Beginners, please have no fear. We are all here to learn, just like you. Also, consider partnering with another participant, especially as there are more people than slots. Presentations need only be 20-30 minutes long to allow time for discussion.

Resources: No textbook is assigned but numerous books are available at local libraries, for sale online and in bookstores.

Other sources - Google, museum and other websites are possible resources for information and/or images: Getty.edu, metmuseum.org, Britannica.com, smarthistory.org, worldhistory.org, and others

Videos: YouTube.com

Images: A Google search will turn up a host of images. Museum sites are also good sources if the work is in their collection - see list under Online resources

The Etruscans Class Calendar

Please select a topic to present. It need only be 20-30 minutes long so we have time for discussion.

Week Date	Hour	Presenter	Topic
Week 1 Jan 11	Hour 1	Linda Guccione	Welcome and Introductions Discussion: Why we study vanished cultures.
Week 1 Jan 11	Hour 2	Linda Guccione	Etruscans - Time frame, geography and historical context
Week 2 Jan 18	Hour 1		Social Structure; Role of Women
Week 2 Jan 18	Hour 2		Government; Economy; Trade
Week 3 Jan 25	Hour 1		Agricultural Practices, Food, and Banquets
Week 3 Jan 25	Hour 2		Etruscan Language
Week 4 Feb 1	Hour 1		Religion; Burial rites
Week 4 Feb 1	Hour 2		Tombs as architecture; other structures
Week 5 Feb 8	Hour 1		Wall Paintings
Week 5 Feb 8	Hour 2		Funerary art - sarcophagi, urns
Week 6 Feb 15	Hour 1		Ceramics - Bucchero, Greek influence
Week 6 Feb 15	Hour 2		Jewelry
Week 7 Feb 22	Hour 1		Metalwork - art, weapons, armor, household objects
Week 7 Feb 22	Hour 2		Sea prowess; Military; Wars
Week 8 Mar 1	Hour 1		Etruscan kings of Rome; assimilation by Rome
Week 8 Mar 1	Hour 2		Wrap-up - what did we learn about the Etruscans? Were there surprises?

