

**Georgetown University Liberal Studies Program**  
**Venice: Prototype of the Knowledge Society, LSHS-477-01**  
*Spring 2008, Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, ICC 214*  
*Class begins Jan. 10 and ends Apr. 17; no class Mar. 6 or Mar. 20*

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## **SYLLABUS**

The 1,100 year history of the maritime Republic of Venice is one of commercial entrepreneurship, urban planning and peaceful self-government very different from other contemporaneous societies. The merchants, bureaucrats, diplomats, artists and others living in the Venetian Republic foreshadow Peter Drucker's vision of a knowledge society. Questions the course will consider:

- Why was the city-state of Venice so different from its contemporaries?
- What choices do knowledge societies make and how are their human values reflected in those choices?
- How does a knowledge society serve - and disserve - those in it?
- What caused the Venetian economy to collapse after so many centuries of success?
- What lessons might pre-modern Venice pose for knowledge societies - including ours here in Washington, DC?

In this class students will study Venice in detail from a variety of perspectives related to knowledge work. They will also review a recent study on the Washington, DC knowledge economy. The in-class presentation and final paper present the opportunity for students to explore in greater depth those aspects of knowledge work of particular interest to them.

### **GRADING**

Students will be graded as follows:

- 20% - Class participation
- 30% - In-class presentation
- 50% - Final paper, 20 pages, with original and secondary sources, and presentation of same

Detailed explanations for grading elements and assignments will be given in the early classes.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center ([arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Students should obtain copies of required texts. Copies of other texts listed in the bibliography are not required but readings may be assigned from them. Sufficient copies of required texts will

be available in the bookstore, as will limited numbers of copies of other texts; students wishing to buy them from the bookstore should take note and buy early. It is not essential to have the same editions of the texts listed below.

1. Lane, Frederic. *Venice: A Maritime Republic*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973. This is the basic text of the class. All of this 457 page book will be assigned.
2. Chambers, David and Brian Pullan, eds. *Venice: A Documentary History, 1450-1630*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001. Most of this 442 page book will be assigned.
3. Drucker, Peter. *The Age of Social Transformation*. Atlantic Monthly, November 1994. This is a 20-page magazine article, available for purchase directly from Atlantic online. Students should read it before the first class.
4. *Human Capital: Greater Washington's Knowledge Workers*. The Greater Washington Initiative, 2007. 137 pages, all of which will be assigned. Although this study is available online, students should not buy this from the website but rather from the bookstore. Students should read the 6 page introduction, available free from the website, before the first class.
5. Norwich, John Julius. *A History of Venice*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989. 631 pages. This is the definitive general purpose history of Venice. Because it is arranged chronologically and the class is organized thematically, readings from it will not be assigned. However, every student should have a personal copy of it and refer to it.

#### **COURSE PLAN (individual lectures subject to change with advance notice)**

Jan. 10, 1<sup>st</sup> class. **COURSE INTRODUCTION**. Review of syllabus and expectations. "An Armchair Tour of Venice" (slide lecture) **STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO CLASS HAVING READ DRUCKER AND THE HUMAN CAPITAL INTRODUCTION (see above)**.

Jan. 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> class. **OVERVIEW OF VENETIAN HISTORY**. (slide lecture)

Jan. 24, 3<sup>rd</sup> class. **CIVIL ENGINEERING and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**. Aquatic engineering, land reclamation, environmental science.

Jan. 31, 4<sup>th</sup> class. **GOVERNMENT – DOMESTIC POLICY**. Population, border management, public health, social services, taxation.

Feb. 7, 5<sup>th</sup> class. **BUSINESS**. Trade, finance, banking, accounting, insurance.

Feb. 14, 6<sup>th</sup> class. **INDUSTRY**. Shipbuilding and glassmaking.

Feb. 21, 7<sup>th</sup> class. **GOVERNMENT – FOREIGN POLICY**. Military, imperial administration, diplomacy.

Feb. 28, 8<sup>th</sup> class. **CIVIC CULTURE**. Religion, education, government image-making, civil justice.

Mar. 6 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Mar. 13, 9<sup>th</sup> class. **CONSUMER GOODS and SERVICES.** Translation, printing, consumer crafts, music, entertainment.

Mar. 20 – NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK

Mar. 27, 10<sup>th</sup> class. **ARCHITECTURE.**

Apr. 3, 11<sup>th</sup> class. **PAINTING and SCULPTURE.**

Apr. 10, 12<sup>th</sup> class. **TOURISM..**

Apr. 17, 13<sup>th</sup> and final class. Presentation of papers by students

### **Bibliography for “Venice: Prototype for the Knowledge Society”**

#### ***Required for all students:***

Lane, Frederic. *Venice: A Maritime Republic*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973. This is the basic text of the class. All of this 457 page book will be assigned. Students should attempt to obtain the original paperback edition (yellow cover); illustrations in the recent reprint (black cover) are of lesser quality. However the later edition will do.

Chambers, David and Brian Pullan, eds. *Venice: A Documentary History, 1450-1630*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001. Most of this 442 page book will be assigned.

Drucker, Peter. *The Age of Social Transformation*. Atlantic Monthly, November 1994. This is a 20-page magazine article that students should read before the first class, available online at [http://www.providersedge.com/ehdocs/transformation\\_articles/Age\\_of\\_Social\\_Transformation.pdf](http://www.providersedge.com/ehdocs/transformation_articles/Age_of_Social_Transformation.pdf).

*Human Capital: Greater Washington’s Knowledge Workers*. The Greater Washington Initiative, 2007. 137 pages, all of which will be assigned. The Washington Board of Trade has made this study available to students enrolled in this class free of charge. Students should read the 6 page introduction, available free from the website, before the first class.

Norwich, John Julius. *A History of Venice*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989. 631 pages. This is the definitive general purpose history of Venice. Because it is arranged chronologically and the class is organized thematically, readings from it will not be assigned. However, every student should have a personal copy of it and refer to it.

#### ***Other readings suggested, depending upon area of interest::***

Brown, Patricia Fortini. *Art and Life in Renaissance Venice*. London: Laurence King Publishing, 1997.

Davis, Robert C., and Garry R. Marvin. *Venice, the Tourist Maze: A Cultural Critique of the World's Most Touristed City*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

Denker, Eric. *Whistler and His Circle in Venice*. London: Merrill Publishers, 2003.

Grygiel, Jakub J. *Great Powers and Geopolitical Change*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.

Howard, Deborah. *The Architectural History of Venice*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.

Howard, Deborah. *Venice and the East*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.

Lane, Frederic. *Venetian Ships and Shipbuilders of the Renaissance*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1934.

Levey, Michael. *Painting in Eighteenth Century Venice*. London: Phaidon, 1980.

Martin, John and Dennis Romano, eds. *Venice Reconsidered: The History and Civilization of an Italian City-State, 1297 – 1797*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000

- Pullan, Brian. *Rich and Poor in Renaissance Venice: The Social Institutions of a Catholic State, to 1620*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971.
- Lorenzetti, Giulio. *Venice and its Lagoon*. Trans. John Guthrie. Trieste: Lint, 1975.
- Morris, Jan. *The Venetian Empire: A Sea Voyage*. New York and London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1980.
- Rosand, David. *Myths of Venice: The Figuration of a State*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.
- Wills, Garry. *Lion City: The Religion of Empire*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001.

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