Discovering Life Through the Ashes of Time…. Pompeii!

OLLI East Winter Term 2020

6 Week course – Thursday mornings, beginning January 23, 2020

No reading is recommended or required; Two books that may be of interest are:

*Pompeii the Living City* by Alex Butterworth and Ray Laurence

*The Fires of Vesuvius – Pompeii Lost and Found* by Mary Beard

Facilitator: Barbe Ratcliffe

Barbara.ratcliffe@du.edu – 303-880-5950

In this course we will focus on the settling of Pompeii; the eruption of Mt Vesuvius; and the subsequent discovery of Pompeii and excavations over the past 250 years. In addition, we will focus on what has become evident about the lives of those living in Pompeii at the time of the eruption. This course will utilize several video lectures from the Great Courses as well as shorter U-Tube videos. A Picture is worth a Thousand Words!

Week 1 – January 23rd – The Settling of Pompeii

- Opening Comments on Reflections on Pompeii
- The Settling of Pompeii
- Lecture – Building the Roman Colony
- *The Fires of Vesuvius* (by Mary Beard) Chapter 1 – Living in an Old City

Week 2 – January 30th – A Bit about Mt. Vesuvius

- Lecture – Pliny Narrates the Eruption of Vesuvius
- Video – The Riddle of Pompeii (2015)

Week 3 – February 6th – Public Life in Pompeii

- Lecture – Eumachia, Public Priestess
- Lecture – Games and Competition for Offices
- *The Fires of Vesuvius* (by Mary Beard) – Chapters 6 – Who Ran the City and Chapter 8 – Fun and Games

Week 4 – February 13th – The Underclass in Pompeii

- Lecture – A Female Slave in Pompeii
- Lecture – The House of the Tragic Poet
- *The Fires of Vesuvius* (by Mary Beard) – Chapter 5 – Earning a Living

Week 5 – February 20th – Art in Pompeii

- Lecture – Wall Paintings in the House of the Vettii
- Lecture - Villa of the Papyri and Life with Piso
- *The Fires of Vesuvius* (by Mary Beard) – Chapter 3 – House and Home and Chapter 4 – Painting and Decorating

Week 6 – February 27th – Bathing, Country Clubs and Visiting Emperors

- Lecture – A Pompeian Country Club
- Lecture – Worshipping the Emperors at Herculaneum
- A Final Walk through Pompeii
- *The Fires of Vesuvius* (by Mary Beard) – Chapter 7 – The Pleasures of the Body and Chapter 9 – A City Full of Gods