



CAMI Project at Industria (Italy)

Course ID: ARCH 365BN

Aug. 10-Sept 6, 2025

Academic credits: 6 Semester credits

DIRECTORS:

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INTRODUCTION to CAMI

The project *Comunità antiche e moderne di Industria (CAMI)*, *Ancient and Modern Communities of Industria*, is a community-based archaeological project in Northern Italy, at the Roman site of *Industria*. Located near the village of Monteu da Po, approximately 30 km from the regional capital Turin, the site of *Industria* is well-known for the discovery of bronzes and the excavated remains of a temple to the originally Egyptian gods Serapis and Isis. The ancient name, *Industria*, refers to bronze production, based on ore that was mined and brought down from the Alps. The site is located near the confluence of the Dora Baltea and the river Po, which was the main thoroughfare to transport ore, half products and finished works of art.

The project is a collaboration of UCLA and the Politecnico di Torino, under the auspices of the Italian *Soprintendenza beni culturali*. The site has a long history of research, and at times a contentious relation with the farmers living around the ancient remains. The project expressly integrates the interests of the local stakeholders in each step of the work.

CAMI has conducted two short exploratory seasons at *Industria* in the Summers of 2022 and 2023, and a first excavation season in 2024. The focus is on getting to know people in the community and doing small-scale excavations and non-destructive geophysical exploration, as well as coring. The 2025 field school will build upon this work with the further development of these important four main research questions.

1. How can we best involve the local community in our work and how does the project benefit the region?
2. What was the size of the town of *Industria*?
3. What were the economic, social and religious relationships of the inhabitants?
4. Where was the industrial area, and what were the industrial activities?
5. Where was the canal that connected the industrial area with the River Po?

In relation to these questions, students will have a chance to participate in excavation, geophysical survey, community archaeology, and discussions on site management, preservation, and presentation of the site. Apart from the community efforts, the focus will be on metal working, the “industry” after which the ancient site has been named, and agriculture, which would have been the main other economic activity. In addition, we will visit collections, archives and the Alpine region of Aosta, where the family that founded the city operated the copper mines. During the four weeks of the field school students get an intensive on-the-job training in archaeological research questions, excavation techniques, survey and finds processing. They will have the opportunity to work closely with archaeological specialists and will be involved in finds recording tasks.

Industria¹

The research project at *Industria* was postponed for several years because of the Covid-19 pandemic—which hit northern Italy particularly hard. It was at last initiated in September 2022. *Industria* was founded during the first century CE as a typical Roman city to replace the Ligurian settlement of *Bodincomagus* (mentioned by Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* iii, 122). Its location was most likely chosen because of its proximity to the confluence of the Dora Baltea, coming down through

¹ An earlier version of this text has been published in *Backdirt* 2022, the annual report of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, which can be found at <https://ioa.ucla.edu/content/backdirt>. *Backdirt* 2023 provides an overview of the geophysical work.

the Aosta Valley, and the river Po. Around the same time, and only about 30 km (20 miles) to the west, the Roman city of Augusta Taurinorum (modern Turin) was founded to replace the Ligurian settlement of Taurasia, near the confluence of the river Po and the Dora Riparia, coming down through the Susa Valley.

Under patronage of the Avillius family, the city flourished during the first and second centuries as an industrial town, as reflected in its new name, processing metal ores brought down from the Alps. Originally from Padua, near Venice, the Avillius family had made a fortune in trade across the Aegean Sea, with their main base at the Cycladic island of Delos, and looked to diversify their assets. Initially attracted by possible gold deposits in the Alps, they ultimately settled on exploring the much larger copper deposits and on the production of bronze ingots and objects.

At the time of the founding of Industria, the Roman Empire was at the height of its expansion and power, resulting in an increased exposure to foreign cultures and religions. This was certainly the case for the internationally connected Avillius family. Prominent examples in Rome of the resulting fascination with cultures farther east include the pyramid (tomb) of Gaius Cestius (circa 18–12 BCE), the statuary of Hadrian and his companion Antinous in remarkable Egyptianized style (circa 135 CE; originally in Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli and now mostly in Room III of the Gregorian Egyptian Museum in the Vatican Museums), eight Egyptian obelisks moved to Rome between around 10 and 350 CE, five obelisks carved in Italy in Egyptian style between around 25 and 275 CE, and the first century CE Bembine Tablet of Isis (Mensa Isaica), now in Museo Egizio in Turin. In Industria, this trend and the influence of the Avillius family seem to have resulted in the two main temples of the city being dedicated to the Egyptian deities Isis and Serapis.

After reaching its peak in the second and third centuries CE, the fortune of Industria changed when the river Po slowly moved away from the settlement and Roman economic structures changed. During the fourth century CE, the bronze industry came to an end, and the inhabitants abandoned the city, with many moving into the foothills of the Monferrato Mountains farther south. Most of the Roman building materials were removed to be used elsewhere, and the remains of the city slowly disappeared under orchards and agricultural fields.

In the course of the eighteenth century, the dukes of Savoy, based in nearby Turin, developed an interest in Industria, seeing another opportunity to increase their cultural and intellectual standing and with that their political influence among the noble families of Europe. In 1745 Charles Emmanuel III sent his librarians Giovanni Paolo Ricolvi and Antonio Rivautella to investigate the site. They returned to Turin with many ancient artifacts, which became part of the growing collection of the Savoy family. These are now kept in Museo di Antichità in Turin. In Napoleonic times (1798–1814), the site was purchased, excavated, and studied by Count Bernardino Morra di Lauriano. More excavations, as well as protection and presentation of the ancient remains, were performed between 1981 and 2003, mostly under the direction of Elisa Lanza and Emanuela Zanda of the University of Turin. Federico Barello and Alessandro Quercia of the Soprintendenza archeologica, belle arti e paesaggio published additional insights, overviews, and reconstructions (Barello 2012; Zanda 2011).

Much of the archaeological attention on the site focused on the center of the city, with its temples and other public buildings, also because many of the ancient remains are below privately owned land. Large areas thus remain mostly unexcavated and understudied, including living quarters, industrial facilities, and cemeteries. This leaves many details of the economic and technological function of the ancient settlement unclear. This holds true for details about the daily life and religious practices of the common inhabitants of the city.

Of prime importance for the success of our interaction with the local population and authorities is our collaboration with local archaeologist Anna Lorenzatto, who also participated in our project in Shire, Tigray, Ethiopia. The scientific research is partly executed by scholars from the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands, with which our archaeobotanical specialists are affiliated.

References Cited

Barello, Federico. 2012. Un abile dilettante: Il lapidario Morra di Lauriano da Industria. [In Italian.*] Turin: Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Piemonte e del Museo Antichità Egizie.

Zanda, Emanuela. 2011. Industria: Città Romana sacra a Iside: Scavi e ricerche archeologiche 1981–2003. [In Italian.*] Turin: Umberto Allemandi.

*Translations and sources in English will be provided as readings for enrolled students

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 6 semester credit units through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix, below). This field school provides a minimum of 288 hours of experiential education.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to enable students to better understand how archaeology is practiced in the field. To achieve this objective, this course has two primary goals: (1) to provide students a practical working knowledge of **archaeological field methods**, including community relations, survey, excavation, laboratory analysis, artifact cataloging, and conservation; and (2) to introduce students to the **intellectual challenges presented by archaeological research**, including research design, the interpretation of data, and the continual readjustment of hypotheses and field strategies with regard to information recovered in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this field school, student should be able to:

Excavations: Identify and discuss major questions driving archaeological research at Industria.

Survey: Discuss the importance of archaeological survey, demonstrate pedestrian survey methods, and create plans and maps of the excavation and parts of the site.

Geophysical survey: Students will participate and learn about the methods, analysis, potential and limitation of magnetic and resistivity surveys.

Recording: Students will participate in recording stratigraphy, filling out excavation forms, making top plans and elevations, taking recording photographs and three-dimensional structure-from-motion models, mapping finds, maintaining an excavation notebook, writing a report, and recording finds.

Cataloging: Students will participate in field sorting and cataloging of finds.

Laboratory: Scheduled lab tasks may include washing, sorting, drawing, and cataloging of finds. If students show interest, they may assist in specialist analysis.

The CAMI Field School is an opportunity to work together with an international team of archaeologists in order to increase your knowledge and gain practical experience. It is a wonderful way to experience archaeology first hand, and decide whether it is something you want to spend your life doing. Field School experience is very important on your CV if you decide to apply for graduate school in archaeology whether this is in Anthropology, Classics, NELC, or another department.

The field school forms part of a larger research project directed by Prof. Willeke Wendrich (Politecnico di Torino and University of California, Los Angeles).

PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired and have to work outdoors. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work – in the sun, on your feet, and with your trowel. The work requires patience, discipline and attention to detail.

GRADING MATRIX

Undergraduate Students		Graduate Students	
Participation	30%	Participation	30%
Field notes	30%	Field notes	30%
Exam on archaeological field methods	20%	Exam on archaeological field methods	20%
5-10 page paper on a subject to be determined during the Field School	20%	10-15 page paper on the relation between theory and practical field work on material from Industria	20%

SCHEDULE

Our normal work week will be Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday we are not working in the field. Students can use the weekends to do laundry, lounge at the pool or venture out. On most Saturdays excursions will be organized which relate to the field work project or the broader cultural context. The schedule below is subject to change, but outlines correctly what will be covered during the field school.

Sunday August 10: Arrival in Turin, Porta Susa and transport to Lauriano.

Week 1 **Morning** **Afternoon**

Monday	Lecture Doing research in Italy Lecture: Intro to CAMI Reading: Barnard/Wendrich 2022 Lecture "Isis and Sarapis in the Roman World" Reading: excerpts from Takacs 2015	Tour of Monteu da Po and discussion of the location of the trench Lecture: "Stratigraphic excavation and field recording I: introduction" Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook chapter 2
Tuesday	Field practice: the use of a grid, laying out trenches. Field practice: leveling and total station.	Lecture: "Stratigraphic excavation and field recording II: recording deposits" Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook chapter 3
Wednesday	Field Work	Lecture: "Stratigraphic excavation and field recording III: recording cuts" Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook chapter 4
Thursday	Field Work	Stratigraphic excavation and field recording IV: structures" Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook chapter 5
Friday	Field Work	Lecture: "excavation history of Industria" Reading: CAMI handbook Chapter 1
Saturday	Excursion to Industria Collection in Archaeological Museum Turin	
Sunday	Day off	
Week 2	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Field Work	Lecture: "Stratigraphic excavation and field recording V: Stratigraphic Matrix PART 1" Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook chapter 6 Brainstorm for community event.
Tuesday	Field Work	Lecture: "Stratigraphic excavation and field recording VI: Stratigraphic Matrix PART 2" Italian crash course Exercises: CAMI handbook chapter 6 Industria within Roman History Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook Chapter 1
Wednesday	Field Work	Practical: Ceramic analysis Italian crash course Reading: CAMI handbook Chapter 9
Thursday	Field Work	Practical: Pottery drawing
Friday	Field Work	
Saturday	Excursion to Aosta	
Sunday	Day off	
Week 3	Morning	Afternoon

Monday	Field Work	Discussion with community members Reading: Wendrich 2018
Tuesday	Field Work	Lecture: Archaeobotany, Zooarchaeology
Wednesday	Field Work	Lecture: Surveying, photogrammetry and GIS Barnard 2023
Thursday	Field Work	Lecture: First Aid Conservation
Friday	Field Work	Lecture: Experimental archaeology
Saturday	Community event	Developed in the previous weeks
Sunday	Day off	

Week 4	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Field Work	Lecture: Site management
Tuesday	Field Work	Lecture: Report writing
Wednesday	Field Work	Report writing
Thursday	Field Work	Report writing
Friday	Field Work	Exam
Saturday	Wrap up and leave for Turin	

REQUIRED READING

The readings listed below will be posted on-line for enrolled students to access in advance of the project.

CAMI Handbook 2025

The project has developed a hand book that has adapted the MOLAS (Museum of London Archaeological Service) manual to the particular requirements of the Italian *Soprintendenza* (full name: *Soprintendenza Archeologica Belle Arti e Paesaggio della Citta Metropolitana di Torino*) under whose auspices CAMI is working.

Barnard, Hans 2023

Archeological Mapping and Planning (Cambridge Elements in Archaeological Tools and Techniques).

Barnard, Hans and Willeke Wendrich

Industria (Monteu da Po), Italy, In: *Backdirt, Annual Report from the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology 2023. New Directions*, pp. 36-41.

Barnard, Hans and Willeke Wendrich

Work at Industria (Monteu da Po, Northwestern Italy). In: *Backdirt, Annual Report from the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology 2022. Changing Archaeology*, pp. 6-11.

Takacs, Sarolta A. 2015 (excerpts)

Isis and Sarapis in the Roman World, Leiden: Brill.

Wendrich, Willeke 2018

Mutuality in Exploring the Past: Ethno-Experimental and Community Archaeology. In: *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 17, pp 188-201.

ADDITIONAL READING & OTHER SOURCES

TBA