What can the remains of ancient Pompeii tell us about urban life in the Roman world? This course will offer a general introduction to the archaeology of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and other sites in the Bay of Naples that were destroyed in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79. We will consider how archaeologists and historians employ evidence from Pompeii to illuminate various aspects of Roman political, religious, cultural, social, and economic life. We will also look at the complex history of the site following its "rediscovery" in the 18th century, and we will examine Pompeii's broader influence on Western art, literature, and popular culture.