

SPRING SEMESTER,2009
CICiv 255/ Litr 159, INTRODUCTION TO LATIN
LITERATURE
T, Th 11:35-12:50, Phelps 310
Professor Kirk Freudenburg

Discussion Section A: Monday, 11:35 a.m. (location TBA)

Discussion Section B: Thursday, 4:30 p.m. (location TBA)

Office Hours, Kirk Freudenburg: Weds. 10-11 a.m., 407 Phelps Hall

Office Hours, Jessica McCutcheon: TBA

Office Hours, Tommaso Gazzarri: Mon. 2.00 – 3.30, 306 Phelps Hall

Course Description:

This course is intended for non-specialists. All readings will be in English translation. The purpose of the course is to provide a critical overview of ancient Latin literature from its inception in the third and second centuries B.C.E., to the post-classical reformulation of Latin literature in Late Antiquity. Standard works of Latin poetry and prose will be studied from a wide number of perspectives, both historical and theoretical. Beyond the basic issues of authors, works, dates, and so on, topics regularly visited will include: problems of cultural translation; the development of Roman forms and related literary institutions from Greek models and sources; the development of Roman poetic sensibilities; Roman patronage and the politics of writing.

Because the literature available from antiquity is vast, a special focus of the course will be on Virgil's *Aeneid* and the epic successors of Virgil, especially Ovid and Lucan.

Besides those studying Classics, the course will be of interest to anyone interested in the history of European literature.

Evaluation and Grading:

This course fulfills the Writing Requirement (WR) but may be taken as a non-WR course. Students registered for WR credit will be required to write a final research paper. Those not registered for WR credit will have the option of writing a final research paper or taking an enhanced final exam (with comprehensive essays). All students, whether WR or non-WR will take the short, objective portion of the final exam. All other course requirements will be the same for WR and non-WR students.

Besides the Tuesday and Thursday lectures, all students will be required to attend a weekly discussion section. The discussion sections will be run by Jessica McCutcheon (jessica.mccutcheon@yale.edu) and Tommaso Gazzarri (tommaso.gazzarri@yale.edu), who are both the Teaching Assistants and Graders for the course. This weekly session is designed to facilitate discussion, to answer questions about the readings and the lectures, and to cover whatever materials and/or readings that are required by the course but happen not to have been covered in the lectures. Quizzes will normally be given every week in the discussion section, except in the week of the midterm exam. Students will be

allowed to drop their two lowest quiz grades. But there is a catch: no makeup quizzes will be administered. A missed quiz, for any reason whatever, including medical, is a missed quiz. The quiz-drop option is intended to cover all routine ailments, miscalculations, and tragedies, so students are urged to keep this in mind when choosing to drop a quiz. Failure to attend the discussion section will affect both one's quiz grades and the attendance/participation grade. In addition to these requirements, students will be required to write two short papers, of 5-6 pages, on topics selected from a short list of essay questions. These will not be research papers *per se*, but critical essays on required readings. Paper topics and complete instructions will be distributed two weeks before the papers are due. The overall grading scheme for the course will be as follows:

Section and attendance/participation grade 15%

Weekly quizzes 20%

Midterm exam 15%

Short paper assignments 20%

***Final Paper (WR Required) or essay exam (non WR) 20%**

***Final Exam (objective portion- required for all) 10%**

(*see above for separate WR and non-WR requirements)

Required Books and Resources:

The following books are available from Labyrinth Books at 290 York St., just off Broadway and behind Sterling Library. Besides these books you will see from the course outline that some required readings will be circulated in electronic form, as PDF files. These readings will be circulated in advance of the relevant lectures either by way of direct email or via the **Classes *v2** website.

All the books in the following list are required:

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Penguin Classics, 2004), intro. Denis Feeney, trans. D. Raeburn

Virgil, *The Aeneid* (Vintage, 1990), trans. Robert Fitzgerald

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things* (Hackett, 2001), trans. M. Ferguson Smith

Livy, *The Rise of Rome books One to Five* (Ox. World Classics, 1998), trans. T.J. Luce

Petronius, *Satyrical* (California, 1996), trans. R. Bracht Branham and D. Kinney

Lucan, *Civil War* (Oxford World's Classics, 1992), trans. Susan H. Braund

Seneca, *Letters from a Stoic* (Penguin Classics) trans. Robin Cambell

Catullus, *The Poems* (Oxford World's Classics, 1990), trans. G. Lee

The Satires of Horace and Persius (Penguin, 2005), trans. N. Rudd

Tacitus, *The Annals* (Ox World Classics, 2008), trans. J. C. Yardley

Course Outline, week by week

The Tuesday and Thursday lecture topics are given below. Each lecture topic is followed by the reading assignments for the day in question. All reading assignments are to be done in advance of the lectures. All page numbers and book numbers are keyed to the editions listed above.

T. Jan. 13 Shopping Day: Introduction to Roman Culture 1

Th. Jan 15 Roman Culture 2; Livy, *The Rise of Rome* pp. 1-42,

- T. Jan. 20 Livy and Roman Historiography; Livy, *The Rise of Rome* pp.43-87
- Th. Jan. 22 Philosophy and the Late Republic; Lucretius *On the Nature of Things* pp. 1-37, 67-79,123-134
- T. Jan. 27 The ‘Neoteric’ Revolution’; Catullus Poems 1-60, 76, 101 = *Catullus the Complete Poems* pp. 1-57, 125-127, 139-141
- Th. Jan. 29 Catullus Poems 61 and 64 = *Catullus the Complete Poems* pp. 57-71, 81-103 (**KF out of town**)
- T. Feb. 3 Augustan Rome; Virgil *Aeneid* books 1-3
- Th. Feb. 5 Transforming Homer; *Aeneid* books 4 and 6
- T. Feb. 10 Epic and Empire; Virgil *Aeneid* books 7 and 8
- Th. Feb. 12 Authorizing Violence; Virgil *Aeneid* book 12
- T. Feb. 17 Transforming Epic; Ovid pdf handout, *Metamorphoses* pp. 5-73
- Th. Feb. 19 Ovid’s Heroes; *Metamorphoses* pp. 294-336
- T. Feb. 24 Ovid’s Rome, Poetry, Apotheosis; *Metamorphoses*, pp. 587-end
- Th. Feb. 26 **Midterm Exam**
- T. March 2 Telling Tales on Caesar; Tacitus *Annals* 1 (Tiberius)
- Th. March 4 Nero’s Golden Rome; Tacitus *Annals* 2 (Nero)
- Paper Assignment One Due**
- Spring Break Begins Saturday, March 7**
- T. March 24 Living with Baby; Seneca *Moral Epistles* 1
- Th. March 26 Seneca *Moral Epistles* 2
- T. March 31 Lucan 1 *Civil War* books 1-3
- Th. April 2 Lucan 2 *Civil War* books 5 and 6
- T. April 7 Satire part 1, Horace
- Th. April 9 Satire part 2, Persius
- T. April 14 Petronius 1 *Satyrica* pp. 1-73
- Th. April 16 Petronius 2 *Satyrica*, pp. 74-111
- (Second Paper Assignment Due)**
- T. April 21 Juvenal’s Roman Rage; Handout (pdf) on Late Roman Literature
- Th. April 23 Late Antiquity
(final class-meeting of semester)