



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri
 Email: gazzarrt@union.edu
 Class meets: MWF hours TBD
 Office: TBD
 Office hour: TBD
 Mailbox: TBD

Description of the course

The course proposes an analysis of Seneca's prose works with a particular emphasis on the relation between writing and philosophical thought. The first section of the term will be devoted to study of tenets of the Stoic school with a specific focus on the more eclectic approach of Roman Stoicism. In the second part Seneca's philosophical production will be extensively analyzed. Each work will be read in English in its entirety, yet the students will be responsible for the knowledge of extensive Latin excerpts. Fundamental questions such as chronology, main targeted themes and stylistic features will be regularly addressed. Each month an entire section will be devoted to the discussion of a major scholarly contribution previously assigned. The midterm and final exams will consist of both translations into English of passages read in class, and of a short essay on a major Senecan theme. The term paper will be designed as a commentary of a portion of a short dialogue. Each student will be responsible for a certain number of paragraphs. With the entirety of the papers revised and assembled, a commentary of a whole given short dialogue will be produced to be eventually published on-line.

Lecture 1	The tenets of Stoicism - logic
Lecture 2	The tenets of Stoicism - physics
Lecture 3	The tenets of Stoicism - ethics
Lecture 4	Roman Stoicism
Lecture 5	Discussion of M. Graver, <i>Stoicism and Emotions</i> , Chicago 2007.
Lecture 6	<i>De providentia</i>
Lecture 7	<i>De constantia</i>
Lecture 8	<i>De ira, De clementia</i>

Lecture 9	Discussion of A. Traina, <i>Lo stile drammatico del filosofo Seneca</i> , Bologna 1987 (4th ed.).
Lecture 10	<i>De vita beata, De Otio</i>
Lecture 11	<i>De brevitae vitae</i>
Lecture 12	<i>Consolatio ad Marciam, Consolatio ad Helviam matrem</i>
Lecture 13	<i>Consolatio ad Polybium</i>
Lecture 14	MIDTERM EXAM
Lecture 15	Discussion of J. Ker, <i>The Deaths of Seneca</i> , Oxford 2009.
Lecture 16	<i>De beneficiis I</i>
Lecture 17	<i>De beneficiis II</i>
Lecture 18	<i>Naturales Quaestiones I</i>
Lecture 19	<i>Naturales Quaestiones II</i>
Lecture 20	<i>Naturales Quaestiones III</i>
Lecture 21	Discussion of M. T. Griffin, <i>Seneca a philosopher in politics</i> , Oxford, 1976.
Lecture 12	<i>Epistulae Morales I</i>
Lecture 23	<i>Epistulae Morales II</i>
Lecture 24	Discussion of M. Armisen-Marchetti, <i>Sapientiae facies. Étude sur les images de Sénèque</i> , Paris 1989.
Lecture 25	<i>Epistulae Morales III</i>
Lecture 26	<i>Epistulae Morales IV</i> - TERM PAPER

Required texts

- Seneca, *Moral Essays I, with an English Translation*. By J. W. Basore. Cambridge (MA) 1928.
- Seneca, *Moral Essays II, with an English Translation*. By J. W. Basore. Cambridge (MA) 1932.
- Seneca, *Moral Essays III, with an English Translation*. By J. W. Basore. Cambridge (MA) 1935.
- Seneca, *Epistles 1-65, with an English Translation*. By R. M. Gummere. Cambridge (MA) 1917.
- Seneca, *Epistles 66-92, with an English Translation*. By R. M. Gummere. Cambridge (MA) 1920.
- Seneca, *Epistles 1-65, with an English Translation*. By R. M. Gummere. Cambridge (MA) 1925.

Course requirements**Attendance:**

regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected.

Written work:

A term paper (no credit will be given for work handed in late without reasonable cause). There will be one mid-terms and one final exam.

Grades Final grades will be weighted as follows:

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| • Attendance and participation | 10% |
| • Midterm | 30% |
| • Term paper | 30% |
| • Final exam | 30% |

Exam dates (subject to revision only by the instructor)

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| • Mid-term 1: | Lecture 14 |
| • Term paper: | Lecture 26 |
| • Final exam: | TBD |

N.B. This course will not meet during reading week.