

# HCL 410 Latin Literature in Translation (Letteratura Latina in Traduzione)

Spring 2016

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**Meetings: Mon/Weds 10:30 - 11:50      Location: Aula 1**

**Office hours: Mon/Weds 9:30 - 10:30 (or by appointment)**

**Instructor: Dr. Filippo Andrei**

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**Extra Fees: 40 Euro approx.**

## **1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This introductory seminar aims to illustrate some of the great works of Latin literature, including both prose and poetry, as well as to study the change of classical ideas over the course of Roman history. By analyzing social, historical, literary and religious aspects in the texts, this seminar focuses on the development of the different Latin genres and privileges the close reading of the major literary and historical works from the second century B.C. to the second century A.D. The authors and works selected represent the very best of most of the genres popular among Roman writers and readers: the comedy of Plautus, the epic of Vergil, the poetry of Horace and Ovid, the history of Caesar and Sallust, the moral philosophy of Cicero and the tragedies of Seneca, and several others. The seminar is divided into four parts: the first part is dedicated to the discussion of Latin drama, the second part to Latin philosophy and history, the third and last part to love, epic poetry and satire.

**The seminar is taught in Italian**, thus students are encouraged to use Italian as much as possible in order to enhance their language proficiency. However, in order to help students to understand and better appreciate the Latin authors, readings and exams are in English.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

The aim of this seminar is to provide the students with the historical, cultural and critical instruments that are necessary to analyze the works that have typified Latin literature from the first centuries to the end of the Roman Empire and to understand their characteristics.

## **3. PRE-REQUISITES - REQUIREMENTS**

Beginners will find this class appropriate as an initial approach to Latin literature in translation.

## **4. METHOD**

The instructor will introduce the topic of the session, which will be followed by a discussion on the readings and, in general, on the subjects analyzed. Audio and visual aids will be used when possible.

## **5. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Regular attendance and active participation is mandatory. Particularly, completing the readings and home assignments on a regular basis is paramount for the successful accomplishment of this course.

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. Only two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **THREE** unexcused absences lower by 1.5 point your letter grades (i.e., B becomes C-); **FOUR** unexcused absences lower by 3 points your letter grade (i.e., A becomes D). More than **FOUR unexcused absences will result in a failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the session hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered as absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **cannot** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips accordingly or after the final exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will result in a failure of the course.

During the academic year, photocopies and other materials may be distributed in class by the instructor. Students who are not in class, or are absent during a session, are responsible for getting the materials from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

**Participation:** Continuous lateness as well as leaving the class for long breaks without the instructor's permission definitely influences the evaluation of your participation. **It is important that students come to class on time. Three delays/early departures will be considered as one absence.** A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended. During lectures, students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell-phones, Ipad, Blackberry etc.). Unless previously approved by the instructor, the use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations. **Note-taking is highly recommended.** Eating in class is NOT allowed. Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on *silent mode* during class.

## **6. TESTS - PAPERS - ASSIGNMENTS**

During the semester students will be evaluated through various assignments such as individual readings, assignments discussed afterwards in class, an oral presentation, a midterm and a final exam. **You are expected to have completed the session's readings prior to coming to class and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Always bring the texts we will be discussing to class.**

**Oral Presentation:** it lasts approx. 20 minutes and deals with the historical and literary context of the works discussed in class. It should be instructive and interesting for the other students. You may want to use photos, Power Point presentation tools, music, and/or films in your presentation. Simple reading from notes will not be accepted during the presentation. Students shall bring to class short summaries of their oral presentations, and the other students are responsible for keeping and studying them because they will be part of the exams.

**Papers:** students will be expected to complete two (5-7 pages) interpretive essays. These essays will deal with 2 different critical issues of your own choosing which approach classical Latin literature in some way.

**Assignments:** Students are expected to complete weekly reading assignments. Reading assignments will be collected in class during each session. The preparation of the assigned readings is fundamental to active participation in class discussions and will be considered as part of the class participation grade. Instructions on reading assignments, homework and guidelines for the readings will be posted on **Edmodo (www.edmodo.com)**. Please, sign up on Edmodo on the first day of class so that you can keep up with the reading assignments and easily download materials and handouts.

## **7. EVALUATION-GRADING SYSTEM**

Weekly assignments: 15%

Midterm exam: 25%

Midterm Essay and Final Essay: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

Extracurricular events activities: 5%

A = 100 - 93%,    A- = 92 - 90%,    B+ = 89 - 87%,    B = 86 - 83%,    B- = 82 - 80%,  
C+ = 79 - 77%,    C = 76 - 73%,    C- = 72 - 70%,    D = 69 - 60%,    F = 59 - 0%

## **8. TEXTBOOKS-READINGS-SOURCES**

### **Required readings:**

Course reader (digital version provided by the instructor; retrievable from Edmodo--directory: "Resources")

### **Recommended readings for reference:**

Paul MacKendrick Herbert M. Howe, *Classics in Translation: Latin Literature*, Paperback, University of Wisconsin Press 1952,.

Virgil, *Essential Aeneid* translated by S. Lombardo, Paperback, Hackett Publishing Co, Inc; New Ed edition, 2006,.  
Further handouts will be provided by the instructor when necessary.

## **9. EXTRA FEES**

The preparing of your oral presentation might require some individual visit to a library, or the purchase of a book or a record the cost of which depends on the student's necessities and cannot be calculated in advance.

## **10. EXAMS**

- Both mid-term and final exams (in English) are questionnaires and short essays questions based on the lectures notes taken during the sessions as well as on the readings.
- **Exam dates cannot be changed.**

## **11. SESSIONS**

### ORIGINS AND LATIN DRAMA

Feb. 22. Introduction to the course. Roman literary culture and history. Archaic age and Ancient Republic

Feb. 24. Archaic epic poetry and tragedy (selection from Ennius and Pacuvius).

Feb. 29. Latin comedy. Plautus, *Amphitryon* (selection)

Mar. 2. Plautus, *The Haunted House (Mostellaria)* (selection)

Mar. 7 Scipio's age. Terence, *The Woman from Andros (Andria)* (selection)

### HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

Mar. 9. Caesar's age (Later Republic). Caesar, *The Gallic War (De bello gallico)*, VI.11-28 (diverse Gallic people); VII.68-90 (upheaval of the Gaul)

#### **14 Mar.: no class (Field Trip to Southern Italy)**

Mar. 16. Caesar, *De bello civili*, II.23-44 (African war); III.82-99 (defeat of Pompeius)

Mar. 21. Sallust, *The Conspiracy of Catiline (Bellum Catilinae)* (selection)

Mar. 23. Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things (De rerum natura)* (selection)

#### **March 25 – April 3: Spring Break**

Apr. 4. Cicero, *On the Republic (De re publica)* (selection)

Apr. 6. Cicero, *On Duty (De officiis)* (selection)

Apr. 11 - 14. **Midterm Exam – exact day and time TBA - First paper due**

### LOVE, EPIC AND SATIRE

Apr. 13. The *neoterói*. Catullus, *Poems*, 1, 16, 29, 32, 42, 43, 50, 53, 61

Apr. 18. Catullus, *Poems*, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 58, 61, 70, 75, 107

Apr. 20. Augustus' age (The Golden Age). Virgil, *Aeneid*, II.234-338; 506-558 (fall of Troy)

#### **Apr. 25: no class (National Holiday: Liberation Day)**

Apr. 27. Virgil, *Aeneid*, IV.296-392; 584-671 (Dido's suicide); I.254-296 (prophecy)

May 2. Virgil, *Aeneid*, VII.25-36 (arrival to Latium); X.439-509; XI.759-831; XII.887-952 (sacrifice of the heroes); XII.819-840 (future events)

May 4. Horace, *Sermones* (selection)

May 9. Horace, *Epistles* (including *Ars poetica*) (selection)

May 11. Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (selection)

May 16. From Tiberius to Trajan. Seneca, *Apokolokyntosis*

May 18. Seneca, *Hercules furens*

May 23 - 26. **Final exam – exact day and time TBA - Second paper due**