



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

## HCL 410 Masterpieces of Latin Literature (Capolavori della Letteratura Latina)

Spring 2020

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**Instructor:** Dr. Filippo Andrei  
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**Class Meetings:** Mondays & Wednesdays 16:30 - 17:50  
**Credits** – 3 CSU semester units.

**Location of Course:** California State University, Florence, Via G. Leopardi, 12  
50121 Florence, Italy. Aula 1

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 15:30 - 16:30 (or by appointment)

### 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 in order to show how classicism influenced the Italian and European Modern identities. 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 three 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.

**GE Pre-Approved Course (Area Credit: C1, C4, or C elective)**

### 2. OBJECTIVES

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 Augustus' age and to understand their characteristics.

### 3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will be able:

- to enhance their skills for an interpretation of literary texts with reference to their historical and literary background;
- to connect the teaching topics to the main framework of the history of Latin literature and to the specific features of literary genres;
- to develop an autonomous reflection and analysis of Latin texts;
- to have an appropriate methodology for the study of literary Latin texts.

- to present the course topics in an in-depth way, with a clear and well organized exposition;

The knowledge and critical skills acquired in this seminar will provide a basis for further study of Latin literature of other periods, and relevant background to the study of later European literature. Students will also be able to provide informed textual commentary on passages from the prescribed texts, and discuss key aspects of the literary and cultural aspects of the texts in discursive form.

#### **4. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given in class, on handouts and via email. Part of the grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. Check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. 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 absence 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): 3 unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; 4 unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; 5 unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. More than **five unexcused absences could result in 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 **five** 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 **could 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, Ipod, 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.

#### **7. TESTS - PAPERS – ASSIGNMENTS – SITE VISITS**

During the semester students will be evaluated through various assignments such as individual readings, assignments discussed in class, two papers, 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. In order to pass the class, it is necessary to complete ALL the tests (two papers, oral presentation, midterm and final) of the semester.**

**Oral Presentation:** the oral presentation, in Italian, lasts approx. 20 minutes and deals with the 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. The first essay will be due no later than the date of the Midterm exam, the second no later than the date of the Final exam.

**Assignments:** Students are expected to complete weekly reading assignments. Reading assignments will be collected in class during each session. (Some of the home assignments will be in Italian.) 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](http://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.

**Site visits:** students will be required to participate in two visits to museums and archeological sites (The archeological area and museum of Fiesole, the Palazzo Vecchio with Roman theatre excavations on March 20 (Fiesole) and on April 24 (Palazzo Vecchio). **The visits will be introduced in class and students can opt to hold their oral presentations during the visits.**

### **8. EVALUATION-GRADING SYSTEM**

10% class participation (attendance and active involvement)  
20% written papers (10% each)  
20% Midterm exam  
30% Final Exam  
15% oral presentation  
5% participation in extracurricular events and activities

A = 100 - 94%,    A- = 93 - 90%,    B+ = 89 - 88%,    B = 87 - 83%,    B- = 82 - 80%,    C+ = 79 - 77%  
C = 76 - 73%,    C- = 72 - 69%,    D+ = 68 - 67%,    D = 66-63%,    D- = 62-60%,    F = 59 - 0%

### **9. TEXTBOOKS-READINGS-SOURCES**

#### **Required readings:**

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

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

(Digital versions provided by the instructor on Edmodo--directory: "Resources"—or available in CSU Library)

Kenney, Edward John, and Wendell Vernon Clausen. Eds. *The Cambridge History of Classical Literature*. Vol. 2: Latin Literature. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1982.

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

McDonald, Marianne, and J. Michael Walton. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Theatre*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Feldherr, Andrew. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Historians*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Gillespie, Stuart, and Philip R. Hardie. Eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Lucretius*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Steel, Catherine. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Cicero*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Virgil, *Essential Aeneid*. Translated by S. Lombardo, Paperback, Hackett Publishing Co, Inc; New Ed edition, 2006.

Horsfall, Nicholas M. Ed. *A Companion to the Study of Virgil*. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Martindale, Charles. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997.

Freudenburg, Kirk. *The Walking Muse*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2016.

Hardie, Philip R. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Ovid*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002.

Bartsch, Shadi, and Alessandro Schiesaro. Eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Seneca*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Further handouts will be provided by the instructor when necessary.

**Sources:** Sources for studying and making assignments are your **booklets, class notes and hand-outs**.

### **10. EXTRA FEES - 40 Euro approx.**

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.

### **11. EXAMS**

- Both Mid-term and Final exams are questionnaires and short essays questions based on the lectures notes taken during the sessions as well as on the readings. Both exams are in English, yet 1 essay question in each test will be in Italian.
- **Exam dates cannot be changed.**

### **12. Class Code of Conduct**

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

### **13. Safety**

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

### **14. Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalogue of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

### **15. Students with Disabilities**

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

### **16. Copyright and Privacy Laws**

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

### **16. Changes- Important**

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## 17. SESSIONS

### ORIGINS AND LATIN DRAMA

- Feb. 24. Introduction to the course. Roman literary culture and history. Archaic age and Ancient Republic.
- Feb. 26. Archaic epic poetry and tragedy. Selection from Naevius (*Bellum Poenicum*), Ennius (*Alexander*) and Pacuvius (*Iliona, Niptra*).
- Mar. 2. Latin comedy. Plautus, *Amphitryon* (esp. I.393-462)
- Mar. 4. Scipio's age. Terence, *The Woman from Andros (Andria)*, Acts 1-2
- Mar. 9. Terence, *The Woman from Andros (Andria)*, Acts 3-5. **Home Assignment 1 due.**

### HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

- Mar. 11. Caesar's age (Later Republic). Caesar, *The Gallic War (De bello gallico)*, I.1 (Description of the Gaul; geography and inhabitants); VI.11-28 (diverse Gallic people); VII.68-90 (upheaval of the Gaul)
- Mar. 16. Caesar, *De bello civili*, II.23-44 (African war); III.82-99 (defeat of Pompeius)
- Mar. 18. Sallust, *The Conspiracy of Catiline (Bellum Catilinae)*, 1-5 (contents and purposes; Catiline's portrait); 9-12 (*boni mores* and today's decadence); 14-16 (Catiline and the conspirators); 51-54 (Caesar and Cato's virtues); 60-61 (Catiline's defeat)

**Mar. 20 (Friday). Make-up class: SITE VISIT. 15:00-18:00. Fiesole, Roman theatre. Details to be announced. This make-up class is for the class cancelled on March 25.**

- Mar. 23. Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things (De rerum natura)*, I.1-158 (Invocation to Venus, Epicurus, Iphigenia, Ennius); II.1-61 (Epicurean wisdom), 167-181 (Providence); III.1-30 (in praise of Epicurus), 830-842 (on death), 931-971 (the metaphor of the banquet); IV.1-25 (the function of poetry). **Home Assignment 2 due.**

**Mar. 25. Class cancelled today. Make-up class was on Friday, March 20 (site visit to Fiesole, Roman theatre).**

- Mar. 30. Cicero, *On the Republic (De re publica)*, I.1-2 (virtue and real action), 25-32 (definition of the state), 31-32 (definition of democracy); VI (*Somnium Scipionis*)
- Apr. 1. Cicero, *On Duty (De officiis)*, I.1-7 (Introduction), I.93-104 (on temperance), 150-158 (professions, on duties).

### LOVE, EPIC AND SATIRE

- Apr. 6. The *neoteri*. Catullus, *Poems*, 5, 7, 51, 86, 43, 2, 3, 92, 109, 70. **First paper due.**

**Apr. 8. Midterm Exam.**

**April 10 –19: Spring Break (CSU closed)**

**Apr. 20. Class cancelled today. Make-up class on Friday, April 24 (site visit to Palazzo Vecchio and Firenze Romana).**

- Apr. 22. Catullus, *Poems*, 87, 72, 75, 85, 8, 11, 58, 76

**Apr. 24 (Friday). Make-up class: SITE VISIT. 15:00-18:00. Palazzo Vecchio and Firenze romana. Details TBA. This make-up class is for the class cancelled on April 20.**

- Apr. 27. Augustus' age (The Golden Age). Virgil, *Aeneid*, II.1-558 (esp. II.234-338 [Laocoon's death]; 506-558 [Priam's death and fall of Troy]);
- Apr. 29. Virgil, *Aeneid*, IV.1-705 (esp. IV.296-392; 584-671 [Dido's suicide]); I.254-296 (prophecy)

May 4. Virgil, *Aeneid*, VII.25-36 (arrival to Latium); X.439-509; XI.759-831; XII.819-840 (future events); XII.887-952 (sacrifice of the heroes)

May 6. Horace, *Sermones*, I.1 (insatiable greed: “est modus in rebus”); I.5 (A journey from Rome to Brundisium with Maecenas); I.9 (encounter with an ambitious flatterer on the *via sacra*)

May 11. Horace, *Epistles*, I.4 (An exhortation to contentment); I.8 (on his own fickleness and discontent); I.11 (to Bullatius on contentment); II.3 (*Ars poetica*, selection). **Home Assignment 3 due.**

May 13. Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, I.89-112, 348-415; III.351-510; VIII.620-720

May 18. From Tiberius to Trajan. Seneca, *Apokolokyntosis*

May 20. Seneca, *Hercules furens*

**May 25-28. Final exam - Second paper due. Exact day and time of final exam to be announced.**

### **18. CULTURAL EVENTS AND LECTURES AT CSU FLORENCE**

Events and lectures to be announced during the course