

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU Virtual International Program

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

Spring VIP 2020

Instructor: Dr. Filippo Andrei

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On-line class time: Mondays 4:45-5:45pm (Florence time, before 3/29)

Monday 5:45-6:45pm (Florence time, as of 3/29)

Credits – 3 CSU semester units.

**Office hours: Fridays 5:45-6:45pm before 3/29, Friday, 6:45-7:45 after 3/29
(or by appointment on Zoom meeting)**

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.

For on-line classes, the teacher will track attendance through the Canvas portal.

Participation: It is important that students participate in class on time. Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on *silent mode* during class.

During the academic year, photocopies and other materials may be uploaded to the CANVAS platform by the instructor. Students are responsible for getting the materials from their classmates.

7. TESTS - PAPERS – ASSIGNMENTS

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 participating in class and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Always bring the texts we will be discussing to class. It is necessary to complete ALL the tests (two papers, oral presentation, midterm and final) of the semester or you risk failing the class.**

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 present in class short summaries of their oral presentations, and the other students are responsible for listening to them and taking notes about 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 discussed 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) or **Canvas (to be announced)**. 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.

8. EVALUATION-GRADING SYSTEM

10% class participation (on-line participation and active involvement)

20% written papers (10% each)

30% Midterm exam

30% Final Exam

10% oral presentation

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)

Kenny, 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 -

The preparing of your oral presentation might require some individual visit to a library, or the purchase of a book, CD, DVD, etc. The cost of these items 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. 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 for more information.

14. 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 your teacher if you need special accommodations.

15. Copyright and Privacy Laws

Texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files, only for class use.
In addition, class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, with the 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

Week 1 (in Florence)

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 (*Iliana, Niptra*).

Week 2 (in Florence)

Mar. 2. Latin comedy. Plautus, *Amphitryon* (esp. I.393-462)
Mar. 4. Scipio's age. Terence, *The Woman from Andros (Andria)*, Acts 1-2.

Note: the first two weeks of class were in Florence, Italy.

March 9 - 12 the classes were suspended.

Week 3 – ON LINE CLASSES BEGIN:

Mar. 16. Terence, *The Woman from Andros (Andria)*, Acts 3-5.
Home Assignment 1 (Character Analysis).

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

Week 4

Mar. 23. Caesar, *De bello civili*, II.23-44 (African war); III.82-99 (defeat of Pompeius).
Reading assignment on Sallust, *The Conspiracy of Catiline (Bellum Catilinae)*, 1-5 (contents and purposes; Catiline's portrait); 9-12 (*bonimores* and today's decadence); 14-16 (Catiline and the conspirators); 51-54 (Caesar and Cato's virtues); 60-61 (Catiline's defeat)

Week 5

Mar. 30. Cicero, *On the Republic (De re publica)*, I.1-2 (virtue and real action) [1-3, trans. Zetzel], 25-32 (definition of the state) [39a-49, trans. Zetzel], 31-32 (definition of democracy) [47-49, trans. Zetzel]; VI (*Somnium Scipionis*).
Home Assignment 2 (Genre Analysis) on 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); VI.1138-1286 (the plague in Athens).

LOVE, EPIC AND SATIRE

Week 6

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

Week 7

Apr. 13. **NO CLASS TODAY: National holiday in Italy (Easter Monday).**
Additional reading assignment on Canvas as make-up class.
Reading assignment on Catullus, *Poems*, 87, 72, 75, 85, 8, 11, 58, 76 (trans. Mulroy)

Week 8

Apr. 20. Midterm Exam.

Reading assignment on 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]).

Week 9

Apr. 27. Virgil, *Aeneid*, IV.1-705 (esp. IV.296-392; 584-671 [Dido's suicide]); I.254-296 (prophecy).

Home assignment (The Death of Priam) on 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)

Week 10

May 4. 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*).

Home Assignment 3 (Close reading) on 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).

Week 11

May 11. From Tiberius to Trajan. Seneca, *Apokolokyntosis*.

Reading assignment on Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, I.89-112, 348-415; III.351-510; VIII.620-720.

Week 12

May 18. Seneca, *Hercules furens*

Reading assignment on Seneca, *Hercules furens*

Week 13

May 25. NO CLASSES OR EXAMS TODAY. National holiday in the U.S.: Memorial Day.

May 26-29. Final exams- Second paper due. Exact day and time of final exam to be announced.