

College of the Humanities

Greek and Roman Studies: Latin 3900A/4900A

Studies in Latin Poetry and Prose: Latin Epic and Cicero

Class time: Tuesday 11:35 – 2:25  
Location: Paterson Hall, floor 2A, room 46  
Instructor: Dr Kennedy-Klaassen  
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### Course Description

Through translation and analysis of epic poetry and Cicero's prose, we will exercise our Latin language skills and familiarize ourselves with the literary and cultural context of the different epic writers and Cicero's Late Republican Rome. Students will learn about poetic and rhetorical conventions and will be encouraged to develop their own critical approach to the texts, intermediate Latin students through a close reading of the passages, and advanced students by also becoming acquainted with the scholarly discussion.

Please note that this class has mixed levels. For intermediate students in their fourth semester of study, the focus will be on grammatical translation of Latin, starting at about 30 lines per class and ending at about 60. Third and fourth year students will be expected to prepare more lines. Third year students will in addition focus on literary interpretation and the historical context, developing their interests into a presentation. At the fourth year level, there will be more independent research leading to a presentation and paper.

The format of the class, 3 hours once a week, requires extensive independent preparation. There will be a break about halfway through the class.

### Required Texts

*A Latin Epic Reader: Selections from Ten Epics*, Alison Keith, Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012

*A Cicero Reader: Selections from Five Essays and Four Speeches, with Five Letters*, James M. May, Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012

### Recommended Texts

1. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*, ed. A. Mahoney, Focus Press, 2001

2. A Latin Dictionary, such as: *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*, Charlton T. Lewis, Oxford University Press, 1891 / 1984.

You may find helpful *Glossa*, or *Whitaker words* <http://users.erols.com/whitaker/words.htm>, and *Perseus* <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0003>.

## Evaluation

### Second year:

10%	class participation
20%	vocab quizzes
20%	January 30 test
10%	Feb 27 translation quiz
20%	March 20 test
10%	April 10 translation quiz
10%	Take home final

### Third year:

10%	class participation
10%	vocab quizzes
10%	presentation
20%	January 30 test
10%	Feb 27 trans quiz
20%	March 20 test
10%	April 10 trans quiz
10%	Take home final

### Fourth year:

10%	class participation
10%	vocab quizzes
10%	presentation of paper
20%	January 30 test
10%	Feb 27 trans quiz
20%	March 20 test
10%	April 10 trans quiz
10%	Take home final

**Class participation** includes attendance and preparation of the text as well as an active engagement with the interpretation of the text.

- After the testing that begins every class, the students will individually share how they prepared the material for translation (for instance, through lists of vocabulary and queries on grammar, or through a written translation). The various strategies presented will encourage students to move away from a focus on a written translation and towards an understanding of the different possible interpretations of the Latin text.
- To hone these translation skills, we will also be practicing reading Latin at sight.
- Everyone will introduce one week's reading in a 3-5 minute presentation.
- Fourth year students will present a detailed comparison of Vergil 6.179-82 with Ennius 175-9 in our third class, January 23.
- In-class translation of the text will have a student in their second year of Latin paired with an advanced student: one will translate, and the other will ask questions on the grammar and syntax, and then the roles will change.
- Independent and enthusiastic participation in the workshopping portion of the class is expected for topics such as metrical scansion, composition of Latin poetry, and verb synopses.
- Much fun will be had by all.

**Vocabulary quizzes** based on the first 30 lines of reading will begin each class which does not have another form of testing. The larger quizzes or tests will incorporate a question on vocabulary based on the first 30 lines of reading for that day. The 8 vocabulary quizzes will form 20% of the grade for students in their second year of Latin, and 10% for advanced students.

Third year students will give a **presentation** on a topic of their choice and fourth year students will write a **paper** and **present** their findings to the class. Topics may stem from an expanded introduction to the readings for the day, and may include, for instance, female dreams in epic (Ilia's dream in Ennius); representations of Romulus and Remus in Latin literature, hymns to Venus (Lucretius); Epicurean philosophy; the representation of love-sickness in ancient literature; the golden age in the ancient imagination; the civil war between Pompey and Julius Caesar; the Punic wars; the Catilinarian conspiracy; Roman oratory; Medieval Latin.

**Testing** will include vocabulary, translation, commentary, identification of grammar and syntax, discussion of historical and literary context, the synopsis of a verb, metrical scansion, rhetorical figures, memorization of assigned lines, translation of an unseen passage at sight, and essay questions.

Tentative class schedule (Tuesdays, 11:35-2:25); readings from the textbooks:

1. January 9 **Ennius** 34-50, 72-91; advanced students only: 175-9
2. Jan 16 **Lucretius** 1. 1-43; advanced students: 936-50
  - Vocabulary Quiz
3. Jan 23 **Vergil** 1.1-11, 148-56, 4.1-30; advanced: 4. 160-72, 8. 625-34  
Fourth year students present a detailed comparison of Vergil 6.179-82 with Ennius 175-9
  - Vocabulary Quiz
4. Jan 30 **Ovid** 1. 1-20, 89-112; advanced: 4. 706-39
  - ❖ Test on Ennius, Lucretius, Vergil, and the vocabulary of Ovid
5. February 6 **Ovid** 8. 155-82, **Lucan** 2. 1-15; advanced: **Valerius Flaccus** 2. 497-537
  - Vocabulary Quiz
6. Feb 13 **Statius** 1. 401-27, **Silius Italicus** 1. 1-28; advanced: composition of Latin poetry
  - Vocabulary Quiz

Reading Week: transition to **Cicero**

7. Feb 27 advanced only: *De inventione* 1.1; everybody: *In Catilinam* 2. 22-25
  - ❖ Translation Quiz on Ovid, Lucan, Valerius Flaccus, Statius, and Silius, and including the vocabulary of *In Catilinam*
8. March 6 *Pro Archia poeta* 12-16 (intermediate, first 51 lines only)
  - Vocabulary Quiz
9. Mar 13 *Ad familiares* 14.1; advanced: *Pro P. Sestio* 45-46
  - Vocabulary Quiz
10. Mar 20 advanced only: *Ad Quintum fratrem*; everybody: *De oratore* 1.16-20
  - ❖ Test on *De inventione*, *In Catilinam*, *Pro Archia*, *Ad familiares*, *Pro P. Sestio*, and the vocabulary of *De oratore*
11. Mar 27 *Pro Milone* 24-29 (intermediate, first 51 lines only)
  - Vocabulary Quiz
12. April 3 *Brutus* 1-9 (intermediate, first 52 lines only)
  - Vocabulary Quiz
13. Apr 10 Medieval Latin
  - ❖ Translation Quiz on passages from March 20, 27, and April 3, and including the vocabulary of our Medieval Latin readings