

David K. Oosterhuis
Old Main 407
Office hours: MF 11-12, W 8:30-9:30
W 3:30-4:30 Th 3-4 and by appointment

doosterh@macalester.edu
phone 651-696-6755
Department office and mailbox Old Main 311
Department phone 651-696-6376

CLAS 332: Intermediate Latin II: Poetry

Spring 2009 MWF 2:20-3:20 Old Main 009

Overview

Classics 332 is designed to develop your skills in translating Latin poetry. The majority of the class will be given over to the translation and discussion of various works written by ancient Roman poets.

The focus will be on post-Vergilian epic poems. Vergil's epic, the *Aeneid*, set the gold standard for Latin epic poems and so it was left to his successors to find new ways of approaching the genre. We will be devoting approximately five weeks to each of the following poets: Ovid, Lucan, and Statius. Each of these authors approached the difficult task of taking up Latin epic after Vergil in his own way.

Materials

The following required texts are available in the bookstore.

Ovid: Metamorphoses Book I ed. A.G. Lee, Bolchazy-Carducci 9780865160408
A Lucan Reader ed. Susanna Braund, Bolchazy-Carducci 9780865166615
Statius: Achilleid ed. O.A.W. Dilke, Bristol Phoenix Press 9781904675112

Not required, but highly recommended, is the following, which should also be at the bookstore:

Chambers Murray Latin-English Dictionary Smith & Lockwood, Chambers 9780550190031

Expectations and Attendance

In a language class nothing is more critical than your attendance. Absences of any kind will impact your grade. Come to class prepared and ready to participate.

Participation means a willingness to talk and contribute in class—and not just when called upon. Preparation means doing the work that will be assigned daily. You will be expected to have made a real attempt at the translation; you are not expected to have done it perfectly. If you're stuck, try to identify the sticking point and bring it to class.

Let me stress this point. **That's what class is for: For you to ask questions.**

Absences do, unfortunately, happen. If you let me know beforehand or as soon as possible afterwards (by e-mail or voice mail) I will be much more likely to allow make-ups for quizzes and exams. Valid reasons for missing class include religious holidays, family emergencies, illness or injury, and school-sponsored events.

Quizzes and Exams

Every Monday there will be a quiz over material translated in class the previous week. The lowest of these will be dropped. There will be approximately ten of these quizzes and they will cover translation, grammar, and scansion.

Each author will be the subject of a comprehensive exam that includes previously translated material and new material to be sight-read. The dates of these exams are as follows: Ovid **March 2**, Lucan **April 6**, Statius **May 4**.

There will not be a final exam *per se*. The final exam period will be used for your presentations, discussed below.

Final Presentation

Ancient poetry was meant to be heard. You will memorize 6-10 lines of poetry from one of our authors and present them to the class, in meter, in Latin. You will also hand in a looser, more professional translation of the lines you have chosen. Our final exam time is **Saturday, May 9 1:30-3:30**. Your selection should be cleared with me by May 1.

Grading

Grades descend by weighted percentages (i.e. $\geq 80\%$ = B-, $\geq 83.3\%$ = B, etc). There is no reason everyone in the class cannot receive an A. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- 15% weekly review quizzes (lowest score will be dropped)
- 45% author exams (15% each)
- 15% final presentation
- 25% class preparation and participation

Extra credit

Extra credit assignments may be made at the instructor's discretion and will be available to the entire class; they will not be made on an individual basis.

No extra credit assignments will be accepted after final course grades have been submitted.

Students with disabilities

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, who will serve as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully. The Associate Dean can be reached in the Office of Student Affairs, 119 Weyerhaeuser, by phone at 651-696-6220, or email llandrem@macalester.edu.

Scholastic dishonesty

Although consultation with your fellow students can be a useful part of the learning process, you are expected to complete all assignments on your own. Scholastic dishonesty, including both cheating on assignments or exams and plagiarism (the representation of another's work as your own), will be punished with a grade of F for the course and you will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Office of Academic Programs. For more information as to what constitutes scholastic dishonesty please consult the College's Academic Honesty Policy.

Addenda

These schedules and procedures are subject to change due to extenuating circumstances and/or caprices of Fate. Supplementary material may be forthcoming.

Be advised that some of the material we will read may be considered offensive. The views expressed by ancient authors are not necessarily those of the instructor.