

Classics 231 ~ Fall 2009 ~ Macalester College

INTERMEDIATE LATIN PROSE:
PETRONIUS, SATYRICON

PROFESSOR BETH SEVERY-HOVEN

Office: 312 Old Main, Office phone: 696-6721
Office hours: M 10:45-11:45, W 1:10-2:10, AND BY APPOINTMENT
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Course homepage: <http://www.macalester.edu/courses/clas31>
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PRECEPTOR CHRIS LARABEE

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Office Hours held in or near the Periodicals Room of the DeWitt Wallace Library
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to develop your newly-acquired ability to read Latin. Your primary goal is to become a more fluent reader of Latin prose through practice, review of grammar and syntax, improved knowledge of vocabulary, and the development of varied reading strategies. Our regular class meetings will thus be devoted to working through the textbook *The Satyricon of Petronius*, which provides grammatical review and adapted readings from Petronius' *Satyricon*. For each chapter, I will introduce the forms and syntax under review, we will translate and discuss the exercises based on that grammar, then we will read the passage from Petronius' novel. Scheduled vocabulary and grammar quizzes, the occasional pop quiz, composition and other exercises will enliven our weeks. You and your classmates have the unique opportunity to be the first users of this textbook, written this past summer by myself and your colleague Chris Larabee, Macalester '11, and we will be eager to hear your comments and suggestions for improvement.

Reading Latin is supposed to be about enjoying literature, however, not memorizing forms. I would like to emphasize this part of the course as much as possible. To this end we will read all that survives of the *Satyricon* in translation, as well as a series of short commentaries on related historical, literary and cultural themes. All of these are designed to enrich our frequent and lively classroom discussions, which give meaning to your ability to read Latin prose in the original. Finally, out of these discussions will grow a selection of a different author and text to study and compare for the last few weeks of the term.

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION

Class Preparation and Participation	25%
Quizzes & Activities	20%
Midterms (2)	20%
Contribution to Class Book	10%
Performances	10%
Final Exam	15%

Class work: I understand that things come up, and few people can attend absolutely every class meeting. However, you cannot get credit for participating when you are absent. I also feel it is better to come to class unprepared and at least hear the discussion of the exercises or passages than to skip class, so everyone starts with two 'get of jail free cards.' Do not abuse this, however. Failing to prepare adequately for class on a regular basis will severely affect your ability to read Latin and your course grade, just as consistent absence will cause you to fail the course. Completing an evaluation form for one-third of the chapters in the new book (that is, for 4 chapters) will also contribute toward your participation grade. In general, how well you prepare for class and the degree to which you actively participate inform your grade for course work.

You will take two midterm exams on Petronius over the term, during weeks 5 and 10. Your quiz grade is comprised of the writing activities occasionally assigned from our textbook, regular vocabulary quizzes and unannounced pop quizzes. **No late work will be accepted** -- so turn in written assignments even when you do not attend class. Some of these include performing scenes from the novel in class; everyone will participate in at least one of these performances over the term. You will also need to revise one of your longer Latin compositions, storyboards or sketches based on feedback from the professor and your peers. The final versions of these will be published together as a book for the whole class. The final exam is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 1:30-3:30pm. If you have difficulties with the date of any scheduled quiz or exam, consult with me in advance. I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, at 696-6220 to make an appointment. It is important to meet early in the semester to ensure your accommodations are approved to ensure you begin the semester successfully.

TEXTBOOKS

The following books have been ordered and should be available in the Lampert Building on Snelling avenue. Please notify both the store and me immediately if you have difficulties obtaining either of these items.

Required: Sarah Ruden, *Petronius Satyricon* 0-87220-510-X, Hackett.

Recommended: John C. Traupman, *Bantam New College Latin & English Dictionary*, 0553573012, Bantam Books.