

INTERMEDIATE LATIN PROSE:
THE SATYRICA OF PETRONIUS
Classics 231 ~ Fall 2011 ~ Macalester College

PROFESSOR BETH SEVERY-HOVEN

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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 Satyrিকা of Petronius*, which provides grammatical review and selected readings from Petronius' novel. For each chapter, we will review a set of forms and syntax, discuss exercises based on that grammar, and then read a passage from Petronius' surviving text. Scheduled vocabulary and grammar quizzes, the occasional pop quiz, composition and other exercises will enliven our weeks.

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 *Satyrিকা* in translation, as well as an introduction to its historical, literary and cultural contexts. In pairs, students will also give a brief presentation on a scholarly article or book chapter; a short bibliography will be provided, but you are encouraged to find a piece of interest to you on your own. 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.

TEXTBOOKS

The primary course textbook will be provided in photocopied form in class or electronically via Moodle. This is a draft of a new book authored by myself, your colleague Chris Larabee, Macalester '11, and my colleague David Oosterhuis, a professor at Gonzaga University. The textbook has been heavily revised based on the comments of previous students, and I look forward to hearing your responses to the work as we move toward publishing it with the University of Oklahoma Press.

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: Satyrিকা. Petronius. Translated by R. Bracht Branham and Daniel Kinney.
9780520211186, University of California Press.

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

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION

Class Preparation and Participation	15%
Quizzes & Activities	25%
Midterms (2)	30%
Presentation of Scholarship	10%
Final Exam	20%

Class work: I understand that things come up, and few people can attend absolutely every class meeting. You should also stay home rather than share your illnesses with us if you are unwell. 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 (more than 5 classes) will cause you to fail the course. In general, how well you prepare for class and the degree to which you actively participate in discussion inform your grade for course work.

You will take two midterm exams over the term, after chapters four and eight. More information about these and the final will be provided as they approach. Your quiz grade is comprised of the activities occasionally assigned from our textbook, scheduled vocabulary and irregular verb quizzes, online quizzes based on secondary reading for class, and unannounced pop quizzes. **No late work will be accepted** -- so turn in written assignments even when you do not attend class. Some of the activities include performing scenes from the novel in class; everyone will participate in at least one of these performances over the term. In pairs, students will also locate an interesting scholarly paper or book chapter on Petronius, the *Satyrica* or a related issue in Roman culture and present this to the class. This project exposes everyone to contemporary scholarship on Petronius at the cost of finding and analyzing one piece of work with a partner. The final exam is scheduled for Friday, December 16, 8:00-10:00am, in our regular classroom. 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. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: www.maclester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices. It is important to meet early in the semester to ensure your accommodations are approved to ensure you begin the semester successfully.