

Classics 483 - Advanced Readings in Latin: Ancient Letters

Fall 2010
MWF 2:20 - 3:20
Nanette Goldman

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Old Main 010

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Office Hours: Tu. 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. WF 1:00 - 2:00 and by appt.
Email: goldman@macalester.edu
Course Web Page: moodle.macalester.edu Advanced Readings in Latin

Required Texts:

Greek and Latin Letters: An Anthology with Translation. ed. Michael Trapp. Cambridge. 2003

Latin Letters: Reading Roman Correspondence. ed. Cecilia Luschnig. Focus. 2006

Latin – English dictionary

Recommended Text(on 2-hour reserve at DeWitt Wallace Library):

A New Latin Grammar. Allen and Greenough. Caratzas. 1983

or

A Latin Grammar. James Morwood. Oxford. 1999.

Course objectives

In this class our principal aims will be to:

1. Gain greater facility with translating and interpreting Latin texts, seen and unseen.
2. Examine the traditions of Classical scholarship with regard to text and literary criticism
3. Explore the phenomenon of ancient Greco-Roman epistolography in a socio-historical context, including shaping a definition of an ancient 'letter'.
4. Develop research skills using the tools of the discipline
5. Attain fluency in oral and written expression
6. Engage with primary literature and secondary scholarship pertinent to students' areas of interest and/or expertise

Course description

The majority of our class time will be spent translating and interpreting an extraordinarily broad range of Latin documents called 'letters', literary and non-literary, published and private, complete and fragmentary. The nature of the "textual commentary" will be fully explored. As relevant, we will discuss philological matters such as morphology, syntax, lexical problems, textual emendations, and

papyrological phenomena. Secondary readings will be assigned as the semester progresses and areas of individual student interest emerge. As we will be reading a great number of authors, and grouping our units by author, each student will have the opportunity to present a brief summary of the work and context of one or perhaps two of the authors, In addition each student will choose a topic for which she or he will develop a bibliography, give a class presentation and write a 12-15-page paper. To that end, we will have one or two library sessions for training in digital research resources and strategies for writing research papers. There will be one mid-semester exam and one final exam, both of which will focus on translation and interpretation. Small written assignments will be added on occasion.

Assignments and Grading

Most assignments will be given at the end of every class period. **All** assignments will be posted on the web via the Moodle system. You will be responsible for checking that between class meetings for any emendations. Secondary readings will be available either on the Moodle page or at the reserve desk of the DeWitt Wallace library.

The components of your final grade break down as follows:

Class performance (regularity and promptness in attendance, thoroughness of advanced reading preparation, consistency in contribution to discussions, background presentations, quizzes, completion of written assignments: article review, annotated bibliography et alia): **30%**

Research paper: 20%

Class presentation of paper 10%

Mid-semester exam: 15%

Final Exam: 25% - Thursday, December 20.

Grading Scale:

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|--------|----|
| 94-100 | A |
| 90-93 | A- |
| 88-89 | B+ |
| 83-87 | B |
| 80-82 | B- |
| 78-79 | C+ |
| 73-77 | C |
| 70-72 | C- |
| 68-69 | D+ |
| 62-67 | D |
| 59-61 | D- |
| 0-58 | F |

Advanced Reading in Latin:

Schedule of Readings:

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|-----------------------|--|
| September 7 – 10 | Ancient Epistolary Theory. Letters of Cicero |
| September 13 – 17 | Letters of Cicero |
| September 20 - 24 | Letters of Cicero |
| September 27 - Oct. 1 | Letters of Cicero, Embedded letter in Plautus' <i>Pseudolus</i> . Quiz on Cicero. |
| October 4 – 8 | Embedded letter Plautus' <i>Pseudolus</i> and Catiline's letter in Sallust. October 8 – No class meeting. Individual meetings regarding research papers. |
| October 11 – 15 | Epistles of Horace. |
| October 18 – 22 | <i>Tristia</i> and <i>Epistulae ex Ponto</i> of Ovid. <i>Epistulae Morales</i> of Seneca |
| October 25 – 27 | <i>Epistulae Morales</i> of Seneca. Mid-semester exam |

MID-SEMESTER BREAK

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|------------------|--|
| November 1-5 | Letter in Petronius' <i>Satyricon</i> . <i>Epigramata</i> of Martial. Letters of Pliny |
| November 8 – 12 | Letters of Pliny and Trajan. Annotated Bibliography due |
| November 15 – 19 | Letters of Pliny. |
| November 22 – 24 | Letters of Fronto. |

Thanksgiving Break

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| November 29 – Dec. 3 | Quiz #2. Letters from Papyri. 1 st draft of paper due |
| December 6 – 10 | Papyri Letters. Letters of Ausonius. Student presentations |
| December 13 | Letters of Augustine and Sidonius. Student presentations. |

Final draft of paper due Tuesday December 14

Final Exam Thursday, December 16