**30:265 Latin Literature in Translation — Tentative Course Outline & Reading List**

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**CHO 107**

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**NO ATTACHMENTS, please!**

**Office Hours:** I have an open door policy. If the door is open you are most welcome to come in.

This course is a survey of the literature written in Latin and first read by the ancient Romans. You may think these works are old and dusty, but they have survived for 2,000 years and they have influenced many of English literature’s finest writers. Now is your chance to discover them for yourself! All works are read in translation and wearing a toga is entirely optional.

**Required Texts:** Virgil, *The Aeneid* (trans. A. Mandelbaum)

Peter E. Knox and J.C. McKeown eds., *The Oxford Anthology of Roman*

*Literature*

**Reading List:**

The Poetry of Ancient Rome:

Virgil, *The Aeneid*

selections from *Georgics*

Ovid, selections from *Amores*

selections from *The Metamorphoses*

Catullus, selected lyrics

Propertius, selected elegies

Sulpicia, selected lyrics

Horace, selected odes and satires

Martial, selected epigrams

Petronius, selection from *The Satyricon*

Juvenal, selected satires

The Drama of Ancient Rome:

Plautus, *The Brothers Menaechmus*

Seneca, *Medea*

**Distribution of Grade:** 2 short assignments 25% (due January 29, March 4, 2016)

(best grade = 15%, the other = 10%)

1 term paper 35% (April 8, 2016)

final examination 40% (April 14, 2016)

**Percentage value of letter grades:** A+ 4.3 gpa 95 - 100

A 4.0 gpa 85 - 94 Exceptional

A- 3.7 gpa 80 - 84

B+ 3.3 gpa 77 - 79

B 3.0 gpa 73 - 76 Above Average

B- 2.7 gpa 70 - 72

C+ 2.3 gpa 67 - 69

C 2.0 gpa 63 - 66 Average

C- 1.7 gpa 60 - 62

D 1.0 gpa 50 - 59 Needs Improvement

F 0.0 gpa 0 - 49 Failure

**Statement on Accommodation:**

Brandon University is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. If you need such accommodation, please contact Michelle Magnusson, Disability Services Coordinator, Student Services (MCK 106). Students are responsible for registering with the Special Needs Coordinator and for requesting the appropriate accommodation with reasonable advance notice.

**Statement of Fair Warning:**

Literature deals with subjects central to the human condition. Works covered in this course can include (but are not limited to) themes of sexuality, religious expression, violence, suicide, racism, and negative views of women. Students may on occasion find some of the worldviews and/or topics discussed in class personally offensive, disturbing, or otherwise troubling.

**Short Assignment #1 — Due January 29**

**Length: 3-4 typed pages, double spaced, 12 pt font**

**VIRGIL’s *AENEID***

Choose one of the following topics:

1. The Roman marriage ceremony and the 'wedding' of Dido and Aeneas (4.213-228). Start by investigating the traditional Roman wedding ceremony in the 1st century B.C.. Then consider what Virgil is suggesting about the match of Dido and Aeneas in Book 4.

2. The concept of *pudor* as it relates to Dido. (See 4.16-36 in particular.) Start by checking out the dictionary definition of this Latin word and then investigate the Roman view of proper female behaviour. How does Dido measure up?

3. Epic similes are a regular feature of Virgil's epic style. Consider in detail the significance of the epic simile at either 4.90-100 (Dido) or 4.607-19 (Aeneas).

**Short Assignment #2 — Due March 4, 2016**

**Length: 3-4 typed pages, double spaced, 12 pt font**

**Lost in Translation**

It is a truism that every translation distorts the original text. Indeed, remarkably divergent texts can result from the work of different translators with the same original Latin text.

Choose any **one poem** we looked at in class. Compare and contrast 2 or 3 different translations of the poem. How do the translators, for instance, manage such poetic elements as meter (which the Romans had) and rhyme (which the Romans didn’t generally use)? What might the translator be doing with contemporary allusions? imagery? metaphor? style and register of the language? translation of particular words and phrases? (If you don’t know Latin, I can help you identify exact words and phrases in the original.) Which of the 2 or 3 translations that you examined do you prefer? Explain why.

**Suggested Term Paper Topics**

**Due: April 8, 2016**

**Length: 10 - 12 typed pages (not including Works Cited page)**

**Format: either MLA or Chicago style.**

The major paper in this course is a research paper and has a research requirement. You must cite at least **three** critical, scholarly sources (i.e. academic books in the library, articles published in academic journals) in your paper, as well as the primary texts of the literature itself.

1. Make a comparative analysis of two versions of the same myth/legend treated in Latin literature. For example, you could study the treatment of the Proserpina myth in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *Fasti*, or the Orpheus and Eurydice myth in Vergil and Ovid, or the story of Aeneas in Vergil's *Aeneid* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. This question demands, of course, that you read outside the course syllabus.

2. Compare and contrast Horace, Juvenal, and Petronius as satirists. What features do they have in common? What makes them distinct from each other as satirists?

3. Horace is famous for saying that good literature must both ‘teach and delight’ — that is, it must be entertaining enough in some fashion to hold our attention as we read, but to be worth our time it also must have something significant to say about the way we live our lives and the society in which we live. If we accept the idea that literature has a fundamental pedagogical function, what does Plautus’s *The Brothers Menaechmus* have to teach an *adulescens* (young man)about to become a *vir* (“man”)? Does Plautus pass Horace’s test for literary worthiness?

4. “Medea, in Seneca’s play of that name, is everything Roman men feared about women.” Discuss.

5. Examine the influence of classical Latin literature upon the tradition of English literature. You must be specific in the focus of your discussion. You could, for instance, choose a specific genre and study its influence upon a specific English author (e.g. Latin love-elegy and the love poetry of Donne, Latin satire and Jonathan Swift) or a specific Latin author and his influence upon a particular English author (e.g. Ovid and Chaucer, Propertius and Ezra Pound).

OR ... for the creatively inclined ...

6. Write your own verse satire on any topic of your choosing. Model it, however, on the techniques, argumentative strategies, and general manner of presentation (tone, persona) of either Horace or Juvenal. You will not be judged so much on artistic merit, but your satire must be written in **verse** and it must be at least 100 lines long. Remember that the point of this exercise is for you to demonstrate an understanding of ancient Roman satire as a literary form. For your 'research component,’ write 500 words explaining which author you have modeled your satire on, and how your own satire reflects that author’s writings. THIS OPTION DOES **NOT**REQUIRE THE CITATION OF 3 SCHOLARLY SOURCES.

**Final Examination: Thursday afternoon, April 14, 2015**

Details TBA