

Latin 112b

History of Latin literature II



Augustus of Prima Porta (detail, Vatican Museums)

Instructor: Julian Yolles

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Office hour: TBA; Boylston Hall 218

Half course (Spring term): Tu/Th, 10-11:30am in Boylston 237, plus weekly section TBA

Course website: <https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/38148>

Course description

This course will familiarize you with the most important authors of the Roman imperial era: Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Seneca, Suetonius, Tacitus, and others. You will read extended selections of Latin, and become knowledgeable in the principal historical and literary developments that informed each author. You will write two short papers in which you learn to read an ancient author closely and examine how Roman authors engaged in subtle literary allusions to one another. By the end of the course, you will be conversant on a critical selection of ancient literature and more confident in your ability to translate it.

The readings will serve as the basis for short lectures and debate, and a certain amount of translation will occur in class. Sections will involve a short quiz, clarification of readings, and translation. The amount of reading assigned will be 500-700 lines per week.

Prerequisite

One 100-level Latin course. NB: It is **not necessary** to have taken Latin 112a.

Grading

- 10% Participation and preparation
- 20% Quizzes
- 20% Two written assignments
- 20% One-hour midterm exam
- 30% One-hour final exam

Participation and Preparation

Attendance, active participation, and due preparation are crucial components of the course. All assigned readings are to be completed **prior** to the meeting of the class under which they are listed.

After more than one unexcused absence, a student's final grade will be reduced by one third of a letter grade (e.g., an A will become an A-) for each such absence. If you cannot attend a class meeting (for illness, a family emergency, an interview, or a varsity athletic match), please make every effort to contact me beforehand.

Quizzes

Every other week, we will have a short in-class translation quiz on a passage of the assigned readings (whether or not we covered it in class).

Two Written Assignments

Students will submit two short written assignments focused on the readings, demonstrating the ability to thoroughly analyze a primary source. For the first (3 pages), students will perform a close reading of a short passage (no more than 30 lines of verse or a single page of prose), developing a single theme or motif. For the second paper (5 pages), students will write an essay discussing allusion and intertextuality in two passages from different authors.

Midterm Exam

The one-hour exam will consist of translation and essay questions, and will be taken in a single class.

Final Exam

The one-hour final exam will be similar in format to the midterm exam and cover the second half of the semester. It will take place during exam period (TBD).

Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams

All assignment deadlines are final, except in the event of medical or family emergencies. If such a situation should arise, please let me know as soon as possible by email, clearly stating the reason for the delay. In all other circumstances, the following rules apply: for the shorter assignments (i.e., the presentations and paper prospectus), late submissions will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be assigned; for the final paper, each day that the paper is late will be accompanied by reduction of the equivalent of a full letter grade. Finally, **make-up exams will only be administered**

in the event of a documented emergency. Please contact me as soon as possible in the event of such an emergency.

Accessibility Education

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with me by the end of the second week of the term.

Academic Dishonesty

Discussion of scholarship and sharing of sources are essential for successful academic work. You are encouraged to consult with the instructors about the written assignments for this course and to exchange ideas with your classmates. You should, however, ensure that any written work that you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing, and that it reflects **your own approach** to the topic. You must also provide full citation for any books, articles, websites, etc. that you have used in the preparation of your work. Other people's ideas and opinions must always be attributed to them. All quotation from published sources must be enclosed in quotation marks and the source must be acknowledged with a full citation. If you paraphrase a source, you must still acknowledge it by supplying a citation. **Plagiarism, whether of published sources or another student's work, will not be tolerated.** If this occurs, a grade of zero will be assigned and the case will be brought to the attention of university officials.

Textbooks

Given the number of authors involved, texts have not been ordered; nearly all texts may be obtained from the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) corpus:

<http://latin.packhum.org/browse>

Texts of the remaining authors (Minucius Felix, Tertullian, Augustine) will be provided in class.

Schedule of Readings

Most commentaries can be found on the shelves in Smyth; those marked “+” are on the reserve shelf, while “++” indicates that the item can be found on the course website.

Week 1

01/23 (Tu): Introduction. Syllabus and expectations, aims of the course; tools and resources.

01/25 (Th): Virgil, *Aeneid* II.250-558 [Austin; Horsfall++]

Week 2

01/30 (Tu): Virgil, *Aeneid* VIII.1-279 [Austin; Gransden++]

02/01 (Th): Horace, *Epistulae* 1.1; 2.1 [Mayer; Rudd]

Week 3

02/06 (Tu): Ovid, *Tristia*, 1.1; 4.3

02/8 (Th): Ovid, *Fasti* II.268-473 (Romulus and Remus) [Robinson]

Week 4

02/13 (Tu): Persius, *Saturae* III [Harvey]

02/15 (Th): Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 5 (*secundum naturam vivere*), 40 (on style), 41 (natural philosophy) [Richardson-Hay+]

Week 5

02/20 (Tu): *Octavia* [Ferri++]

02/22 (Th): *Apocolocyntosis* [Eden]

Week 6

02/27 (Tu): Petronius, *Satyrice* 3.2 Chapters 26–78 (*Cena Trimalchionis*) [Smith]

03/01 (Th): MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7

03/06 (Tu): Lucan, *De bello civili* VIII.663-872 (death of Pompey) [Mayer]

03/08 (Th): Quintilian, *Institutio oratoria* 10.85-131 [Peterson]

Week 8

SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 9

03/20 (Tu): Tacitus, *Germania*, c. 1-4, 7-11, 13-20 [Much; Rives+]

03/22 (Th): Tacitus, *Annales* XIV.1–10 [Furieux]

Week 10

03/27 (Tu): First Paper Due. Statius, *Thebais* VIII.607-766 (Tydeus and Melanippus) [Augoustakis+]

03/29 (Th): Suetonius, *Nero* 27-38 [Bradley+]

Week 11

04/03 (Tu): Juvenal, *Saturae* X.1–187 [Rudd/Courtney]

04/05 (Th): Apuleius, *Metamorphoses* 4.28-35 (Eng. 5.1-22) [Kenney]

Week 12

04/10 (Tu): Apuleius, *Metamorphoses* 5.23-31 (Eng. 6.1-24)

04/12 (Th): Minucius Felix, *Octavius* c. I-VI, XVII, XX-XXII, XL

Week 13

04/17 (Tu): Trip to Houghton.

04/19 (Th): Tertullian, *De spectaculis* c. I, V–VIII, XXX

Week 14

04/24 (Tu): Second Paper due. Augustine, *Confessiones* I.20-2 (Dido), IV (Alypius) [O'Donnell]

04/26–05/02: Reading Period
FINAL EXAM: TBA