LATN 44: Advanced Latin Readings

Course Syllabus

Fall 2019, MWF 8:00-8:50, PR 3

Instructor: Christopher Chinn (christopher.chinn@pomona.edu; 7-2926)
Office: PR 7
Office Hours: M 2:10-3 R 2-2:50 or by appointment. I have an open-door policy, but it’s always best to let me know ahead of time if you intend to drop in.

Course Objective: The purpose of this course threefold: (1) to improve the student’s facility at reading Latin generally; (2) to provide the student with the philological skills and contextual information necessary to understand Latin literature; and (3) to introduce students to modern scholarship on Roman literature.

Course Plan: We will selections from Livy, Tacitus, Horace, and Statius. There will be two take-home exams focusing on grammar, translation, and meter (where applicable). You will also be asked to write a stylistic analysis and a short (3-4 page) research paper.

Academic Responsibility: I take the issues of cheating and plagiarism seriously. Please familiarize yourself with Pomona’s policies and procedures regarding appropriate and inappropriate academic behavior by consulting the following webpage:

http://catalog.pomona.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#Academic_Standards

It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct, plagiarism, and other violations of academic honesty.

Academic Accommodations: Pomona College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations may be made by contacting the Dean of Students Office. It is up to the student to contact the professor to fulfill the accommodations. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Course Expectations: I expect you to be prepared every day. This means you should be ready to translate and discuss the assigned material. Below I have outlined my specific expectations of you.

I. Class Preparation: The goal here is to get you reading the Latin rather than simply translating it. Toward this end I would like to see you relying less on your written translation of the assignment and more on your grammatical skill and vocabulary. We will build up to this ideal. You should attend class every day, even if you haven’t completed the assignment (but see below on attendance and participation). You should be prepared to translate passages I call upon you to translate, and be able to answer grammatical questions about the Latin. Attendance counts, so come every day.

II. Exams: Exams will include sections on translation, grammar, and meter. In the translation sections you will be asked to translate both passages you’ve seen as well as sight passages. The grammar component will focus on the seen passages, and ask you to analyze the morphology and syntax of particular words and constructions. The meter component will ask you to scan the various meters of the poets we are reading. Exams will be take-home.

III. Stylistic Analysis: You will be expected to write a ca. 500-700 word stylistic analysis of a passage in a Latin poem. You may choose either from the works we have (or will have) read, or any other poet you like. You will need to focus on the structure of the passage and its figures of speech, and explain how these features of style influence content.

IV. Research Paper: You will be expected to write a short (1000 word) paper on a previously noted interpretive problem in one or more of the works we will have read. You will be expected to use commentaries, reference works, monographs, and/or articles as secondary sources. The point here is for you to actively engage with the scholarly conversation on the text we are considering.
Grading: The following table gives a breakdown of grades in the class. For my views on grading, participation, and classroom etiquette, please consult the following:

http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/policies.htm.

Grade Breakdown for this class
Translation and grammar exams (2): 30%
Short research paper: 25%
Stylistic analysis: 20%
Participation and attendance: 25%*

*The participation component is based on my impression of your preparedness. If I feel you are not prepared on more than one occasion, you will lose 2 percentage points for each subsequent instance of unpreparedness. Attendance is mandatory. Your overall grade will be reduced by one-third of a latter grade for each unexcused absence. For an absence to be excused you must provide me with appropriate documentation within one day.

Required Texts: Please obtain the following texts. Do not substitute other books since the Latin text can vary according to the editor. Please also obtain the editions indicated.


Course Schedule: We will try to follow the course of readings below. This schedule is subject to change, depending upon the pace of our discussions. Please have the assignments prepared BEFORE the date indicated.

Week 1
- W Sept 4: Introduction
- F Sept 6: Livy 2.1

Week 2
- M Sept 9: Livy 2.6
- W Sept 11: Livy 2.7
- F Sept 13: Livy 2.9-2.10.4

Week 3
- M Sept 16: Livy 2.10.5-2.11.6
- W Sept 18: Livy 2.12]
- F Sept 20: Livy 2.13

Week 4
- M Sept 23: Livy 2.19-2.20.6
- W Sept 25: Livy 2.20.7-13; 2.32.1-7
- F Sept 27: Livy 2.28.6-2.30.7

Week 5 [EXAM 1 DUE]
- M Sept 30: Livy 2.40
- W Oct 2: Horace, Odes 1.1, 2
- F Oct 4: Horace, Odes 1.5, 9, 11

Week 6
- M Oct 7: Horace, Odes 1.12, 14
- W Oct 9: Horace, Odes 1.33, 37, 38
- F Oct 11: Horace, Odes 2.1, 3, 6

Week 7 [STYLISTIC ANALYSIS DUE]
- M Oct 14: Horace, Odes 2.7, 10, 14
- W Oct 16: Horace, Odes 2.16, 18, 20
- F Oct 18: Horace, Odes 3.1, 2

Week 8
- M Oct 21: NO CLASS
- W Oct 23: Horace, Odes 3.3, 4
- F Oct 25: Horace, Odes 3.5, 6, 13, 30
Week 9 [EXAM 2 DUE]
W Oct 30: Tacitus, *Annals* 14-1.6
F Nov 1: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.7-1.8

Week 10
M Nov 4: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.9-1.10
W Nov 6: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.11-1.13
F Nov 8: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.14-1.15; 1.46-1.47

Week 11
M Nov 11: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.48-1.52
W Nov 13: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.60-1.62; 1.76
F Nov 15: Tacitus, *Annals* 1.77-81

Week 12 [EXAM 3 DUE]
M Nov 18: Statius, *Silvae* 4. praef., 4.1
W Nov 20: Statius, *Silvae* 4.2
F Nov 22: Statius, *Silvae* 4.3

Week 13 [Start Research Paper]
M Nov 25: Statius, *Silvae* 4.4
W Nov 27: NO CLASS
F Nov 29: NO CLASS

Week 14
M Dec 2: Statius, *Silvae* 4.5
W Dec 4: Statius, *Silvae* 4.6
F Dec 6: Statius, *Silvae* 4.7

Week 15 [overflow]
M Dec 9: Statius, *Silvae* 4.8
W Dec 11: Statius, *Silvae* 4.9

Finals Week
[EXAM 4 and RESEARCH PAPER DUE]

Bibliography (very selective): Some commentaries, companions, and basic monographs on the author’s we are reading in the class.

I. Livy

II. Horace
III. Tacitus

IV. Statius