

Latin 2002

Fall 2007

Instructor: John Nicholson
Office: 210 Park Hall
Hours: Daily 2:15-3:15, or by appointment
E-mail: jhn@.uga.edu (please use the word "Latin" in the subject line)
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369-1216 home (before 9:00 p.m. only, please)

Texts: – Course Pack for Latin 2002 containing *Cicero's First Oration against Catiline*
(available at Bel-Jene Copy Center, 163 E. Broad St)
– *A Song of War: Readings from Vergil's Aeneid*, by R. Lafleur and A. McKay.

This course is an intermediate-level exploration of selected readings in Latin Prose and Poetry. It presumes a knowledge of basic Latin grammar and vocabulary, though during the two weeks we will make a rapid systematic review of the fundamentals of Latin syntax. We will begin the semester by reading Cicero's *First Oration against Catiline* in its entirety, and then move on to selections from Vergil's epic poem the *Aeneid*. The aim of the course is not only to build fluency in reading Latin, but also to cultivate a literary appreciation for the work of these two major Roman authors.

Grading:	Quizzes	grammar	5%	August
	Test 1	Cicero	20%	approx. Sept. 13
	Test 2	Cicero	20%	approx. Oct. 4
	Test 3	Vergil	20%	approx. Nov. 8
	Test 4	Vergil	20%	Dec. 13 at noon
	Term Paper		15%	due Nov. 15

There will be four tests (including the final exam). The format for each will be translation of several Latin passages you have seen before, one previously unseen passage for translation, and some objective short-answer questions (in English) on the grammatical and stylistic material presented in class and in the textbooks. In the first weeks of the course there will also be a few quizzes over our review of basic grammar.

Make-ups: Make-up tests will only be allowed upon presentation of a written excuse from a physician or comparable documentation

Attendance: Students are allowed TWO unexcused absences without penalty; after two, each additional unexcused absence will result in a deduction of one point off the final grade.

Honesty: All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. A statement of the policy is available on-line at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Daily work: As homework students are expected to construe carefully in advance each assigned Latin passage and be prepared daily to translate in class. (Obvious failure to prepare may be counted as an absence.) It is generally necessary to reread and review each passage several times before you really have it mastered. You will probably find it advantageous to write out a translation as you go, from which you can later study for the tests, but please do not read from this when called upon in class; instead, translate in class directly from the Latin.

This course is part of the WRITING INTENSIVE PROGRAM designed to help you master the content of this course through a series of writing assignments on which you will receive detailed feedback.

Each week you will be asked first to write out a literal translation of a portion of the Latin text we are studying and then, after receiving feedback on it, to produce a more polished literary versions of the same passage along with a brief accompanying stylistic commentary. The goal of these translation exercises is to focus your attention more sharply on what the texts are saying and how they are saying it, as well as on the many challenges of translating and transforming text, thought, and style from one language into another.

These weekly exercises will not be graded *per se*, but an unusually good or bad performance on them will effect the grade you receive on the next scheduled hour-test. For each exercise judged to be particularly well-done, one extra-credit point will be added to the grade you receive on the next test; for each exercise judged to be conspicuously poorly done, one penalty point will be subtracted from the next test score. Failure to turn in an exercise at all will carry a three-point penalty. An adequate but unexceptional performance will carry neither a penalty nor a bonus.

In addition to these weekly text-based assignments, you will be asked to research and write an original term paper on some aspect of Roman culture or Latin literature related to our class readings. The goal of the term paper is to introduce the techniques of researching the ancient world and the use of literary, historical, and archaeological materials, and also to provide you an opportunity to improve your general writing skills, ranging from the simple mechanics of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, to ways of documenting material specific to classical culture, and of course to improve your organization and clarity in the presentation of a thesis.

For the term paper you will first present (by Oct. 11) an initial proposal to be approved, and then two preliminary drafts to be marked and commented upon in private conferences, before submission of a final version of the paper to be graded. With the first draft (due Oct. 23) you will include a “cover letter” summarizing the purposes of the paper and what you think are the strong points and weak points as well as any problems encountered with the research or writing. The conference on the first draft will focus on broad issues like content, argumentation, organization, paragraphing, etc., whereas the conference on the second draft (due Nov. 1) will deal with sentence-level issues such as grammar, style, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, bibliographical format, etc.