Welcome

Welcome to the Classics Core Course section on Latin Literature. This is the fourth quarter of the core course, so by the time we get started you’ll already be familiar with the aims of the course. We’ll cover some basic approaches to studying Latin literature broadly defined, aiming to professionalize your work in a core area of the discipline of Classics.

Instructor

My name is Randall Pogorzelski, and I will be your instructor for this course. Please call me Randy. I arrived at Western in July of 2011 as an Assistant Professor of Classical Studies. Before I came to Western I was a Lecturer at Scripps College in Claremont, California, at the University of California, Irvine, and at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales. I teach mostly classical Latin language and literature courses, but I also have some experience with Greek language and literature courses as well as ancient history courses. My research focus is on the poetry of the early Roman Empire, most especially Virgil. I also have an interest in the use of classical literature and myth in modern literature and culture. I wrote my Ph.D. thesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara on Virgil and James Joyce, and I’ve taught courses including texts like Watchmen and Frankenstein. There are few things I enjoy more than talking about classical literature and history, so please feel free to contact me any time with questions about the course or about ancient Greece and Rome in general!

Contact Details
Phone: 1-519-661-2111 ext. 84526
Email: rpogorze@uwo.ca
Office: Lawson Hall 3211
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am-9:20am

Class Meetings
This class meets Wednesdays from 2:30 to 5:30 in Lawson Hall 3220.
**UWO Policies**

**Plagiarism**
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**UWO Accessibility Policy**
Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services:
http://accessibility.uwo.ca/

**Mental Health**
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Course Policies**

**Class Attendance**
Attendance for this course is required. If you need to miss class for any reason, please contact me in advance to explain that reason. Not only will attendance allow you to participate actively in the learning process and allow me to provide instant feedback, but it will also foster the sense of community that is such a valuable part of the field of Classics.
**Course Information**

**Course Description**
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major scholarly approaches and questions of the discipline of Classics and to provide a broad perspective on the discipline as a whole through the examination of selected texts and objects drawn from material culture. Students will be exposed to the theoretical framework for each subject, while engaging in a close scrutiny of selected examples (texts and artefacts).

The subject areas of the course include:
I   Greek and Roman Archaeology and Material Culture  
II  Greek Literature, Philosophy, and Oratory  
III Greek and Roman History and Historiography  
IV  Latin Literature, Philosophy, and Oratory

The material to be studied will be supplied by the faculty member responsible for each module. The course will be held for three hours each week. Following each module (based upon both Greek and Roman material) there will be an examination. There will be no final cumulative examination for the course.

**Learning Outcomes**
At the end of this course you will be familiar with some basic scholarly approaches to Latin literature. You may not become an expert in any one area, but you will have a broad overview of the field.

If you are enrolled in the PhD program at Western or are considering enrolling in the program in the future, this course will help to prepare you for the comprehensive examinations.

You will have read, evaluated, and critiqued both primary and secondary sources, communicating your views orally and in writing. In the process you will have developed your critical reading and thinking skills as well as your oral and written communication skills.

By practicing and advancing these skills, you will make studying Classics in general and Latin literature in particular easier, increasing your enjoyment of reading Latin, discussing it, and writing about it. This will encourage a lifelong interest in Latin literature, whether you intend to become a professional specialist in the area or not.
Schedule of Readings and Seminar Topics

Week 1 (Wed 3/8): What is Latin Literature?
Discussion Questions: Is a Ciceronian speech literature? How about Cato’s de Agri Cultura? How is Latin literature unique? Was there even such a thing as literature in ancient Rome?

Primary Reading: Cato, de Agri Cultura


Week 2 (Wed 3/15): The Politics of Latin Literature
Discussion Questions: Is Roman literature secondary and inferior? Do the sinister aspects of Rome mean we should not praise the literature of Rome? What made Cicero Roman and Catiline a bandit? What real effects does literature have?

Primary Reading: Cicero, Catilinarian 1

Secondary Reading: Habinek, The Politics of Latin Literature, chapters 1, 2, and 3

Week 3 (Wed 3/22): Gender and Latin Literature
Discussion Questions: How does Roman comedy construct gender? Does it subvert or uphold gender norms? In what ways does comedy reflect or produce social reality?

Primary Reading: Terence, Adelphoe

Secondary Reading: Dutsch, Feminine Discourse in Roman Comedy, chapters 1 and 4

Week 4 (Wed 3/29): Psychoanalysis and Latin Literature
Discussion Questions: Is it possible to psychoanalyze an author or character through literature? Why have Freudian and Lacanian analysis had such success as literary theories? What are the Symbolic, the Imaginary, and the Real?

Primary Reading: Propertius 1

Secondary Reading: Janan, The Politics of Desire, Introduction and chapters 1 and 2

Week 5 (Wed 4/5): Latin Intertextuality
Discussion Questions: What makes a poem archaic or modern? Can we read Ovid without Virgil? Can we read Virgil without Ovid? Can we read Virgil without Ennius? Can we read Ennius without Virgil?

Primary Reading: Ovid, Metamorphoses 13

Secondary Reading: Hinds, Allusion and Intertext, chapters 1, 3, and 4

Week 6 (Wed 4/12): The Reception of Latin Literature
Discussion Questions: How important is it to understand what an author intended? Is it better to read Latin literature as a contemporary or original audience would have? Are there advantages to reading an old text in a new time? Do modern methods make us better readers than ancient Romans were?

Primary Reading: Lucan 1

Secondary Reading: Martindale, Redeeming the Text, chapters 1, 2, and 3
Assessment Information

Introduction
Your final grade in this course will be made up of your grades in each of the four modules, equally weighted. In this module, your grade will be determined by class participation and a final exam. Having your performance in a course assessed and graded can be stressful, but try to keep in mind that grades are an important part of your university experience. You’re here not only to learn, but also to have your level of success in learning assessed. Think of having your work graded as an opportunity to show how good you are and to have your achievements officially certified. Also, remember that your grades are a measure of your academic performance and not a judgment of you as a person.

Percentage Breakdown
Class Participation: 25%
Final Exam: 75%

Class Participation
You must be in class and prepared to participate at every class meeting. You will not be required to translate Latin in class, although our discussions may involve some linguistic material. The class discussions will focus on interpretation rather than translation. I will evaluate both the quantity and the quality of your participation. If at any time during the module you want to know how you are doing in your class participation, please ask.

Final Exam
Final Exam: Wednesday, April 19th, 2:30-5:30pm in Lawson Hall 3220
The final exam will consist of passages from Latin literature for you to identify and comment on. The format will be similar to the format of Western’s PhD comprehensive exam in Latin literature. If you are enrolled or will enroll in the PhD program, the comprehensive exam will ask you to translate and comment on passages in Latin. For this exam, I will provide the Latin and an English translation. You will as specifically as possible identify the author and work from which the passage is drawn, briefly describe the context of the passage in the work and/or the literary tradition, and write a short essay analyzing the significance of the passage, including as much as possible citations of relevant scholarship.

The purpose of this exam format is to test your ability to participate in scholarly discussions without books or notes on topics that may or may not be in your area of research specialization. This skill is useful for participation in discussions at conferences and in the classroom. Moreover, the broad knowledge you will have in the back of your mind will help to shape and inform your research projects.