INSTRUCTOR
My name is Kyle Gervais and I’ll be your instructor for this course (you can try “Dr. Gervais”, “Professor”, or “Kyle” on for size, and see which you like best). I moved to UWO in 2014 after completing my Ph.D. in Latin literature at Otago University in New Zealand. Before that, I studied at Queen’s (that other great university in Ontario). My research focusses on Latin Imperial epic (I’m about to publish an edition with commentary of Statius, Thebaid 2, and am in the early stages of a commentary on Claudian’s wedding poems for Honorius), but you’ll see that my interests range from textual criticism to digital humanities to comic books. I’m particularly interested in how we (that means you and I) respond to the ancient world and its literature; I hope we’ll be able to learn some things about that this semester. Teaching is both my job and my pleasure, so please contact me in or out of class if you have any questions or thoughts about Claudian or the ancient world in general.

CONTACT DETAILS
Office: Lawson Hall 3226
Email: kgervai2@uwo.ca
Phone: 1-519-661-2111 ext. 84518
Office Hours: please drop by my office, stop me in the hallway, or schedule a meeting

CLASS TIMES
Friday, 1:30-4:30pm, Lawson Hall 3220

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
In this course we’ll study the broad range of Latin hexameter poetry written by the last of the great classical Latin epicists: Claudius Claudianus. We’ll focus on three poems in three genres: the epithalamium and Fescennines on marriage of the Emperor Honorius (teenage love as war looms on two fronts), the first book of invective against Eutropius (scandal and sniggers when a eunuch is consul), and the De Raptu Proserpinae (Virgil, Ovid, and Statius distilled into late antique epic elegance). Your interests will guide to a large extent the questions we ask of these texts, but areas of focus may include: politics and religion, genre, the distinctive features of late antique poetics, intertextuality, gender and sexuality, and reception. Throughout, I will vigorously question Wikipedia’s old-timey judgment: “Claudian is not usually ranked among the top tier of Latin poets”

LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of this course I expect you will have gained or improved:

- an advanced ability to understand and translate Latin epic poetry
- knowledge of various issues important to modern Latin literary criticism
- a basic knowledge of late antique Roman culture
- confidence in public speaking
- skill in scholarly research and writing
- skill in analyzing both ancient literature and modern arguments about that literature
- organized study habits
TEXTS
The primary Latin text we’ll use is J. B. Hall’s 1985 Teubner edition of Claudian. Other texts and resources will be specified later.

ASSESSMENT
Most academic and non-academic careers for which grad school prepares you require you not only to read, understand, and appreciate material, but to analyze it, write about it, speak about it, and persuade others of the validity of your analysis. And so much of the assessment in this course will focus on those skills. Assessment is as follows (fuller explanations will be provided later).

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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.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

CAN I HELP?
It’s important to me that you meet your goals in this course, and I’m eager to help either in or out of class with any academic matters. Moreover, I’m especially aware that there are many challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, or personal) that can prevent students from performing to their full potential. In some cases, I may be able to make accommodations; in some cases, Services for Students with Disabilities (http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/) can help. No matter how big or small the problem, the sooner you speak to me (or the appropriate person), the more likely it is that we’ll be able to find a good solution.