

Latin Prose Selections: Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*



The University of Western Ontario

Latin 3100A, Fall 2014

Randall Pogorzelski

Welcome

Welcome to “Latin Prose Selections!” In this course we’re going to read as much as we can of Sallust’s *Bellum Catilinae*. Our main goal will be to improve your Latin reading comprehension and speed. We’ll also take some time to discuss some of the critical and interpretive issues relevant to the text we’re reading.

Instructor

My name is Randall Pogorzelski, and I will be your instructor for this class. 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 and Lucan. 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

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am-10:20am

Class Meetings

This class meets Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:30 to 2:20 in Stevenson Hall 1155.

UWO Policies

Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

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 Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> [under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

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.

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 Classical Studies.

Using Published Translations and Online Tools

Reading works in translation is an important part of your training in Classical Studies, but please avoid it in this course. One of the aims of the course is to train you to read Latin independently, and you will impede your progress in that area by relying on published translations. I encourage you to use online tools like the morphological analysis tool of the Perseus Project occasionally, but do not become too dependent on such aids. It is essential that you learn to identify forms independently, and you will be asked to identify forms without access to online morphological analysis tools both in class and on the exams. The work you put in to increasing your independence now will pay off by making Latin easier for you in the future.

Course Information

Course Description

The purpose of this course is twofold: to strengthen students' understanding of the fundamentals of Latin syntax and morphology, and to develop skills for reading Latin prose independently. The class will read from the works of canonical Latin prose authors and will include a review of Latin grammar learned in previous courses. As time permits, we will also discuss the relevant cultural and historical context in which these texts were produced.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course you will have improved your command of Latin grammar and syntax as well as your Latin reading speed and comprehension.

You will have gained some familiarity with the stylistic features of Roman prose in general and Sallust in particular.

You will have been introduced to some of the critical and interpretive issues surrounding Sallust, in the process improving your understanding of the late Roman republic.

Improving your understanding of Latin grammar and syntax will also improve your understanding of grammar and syntax in general, which is useful in a variety of fields of study as well as professional employment.

By improving your Latin language ability, you will have increased your enjoyment of reading Latin texts, encouraging a lifelong interest in Latin. This course will be work, but also fun.

Required Text

Ramsey, J. T. *Sallust's Bellum Catilinae*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0195320855

Recommended Texts

Allen, J. H., and Greenough, J. B. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. New York: Dover, 2006. ISBN: 978-0486448060

Simpson, D. P. *Cassell's Latin Dictionary*. London: Cassell, 1977. ISBN: 978-0025225800

Schedule of Reading

There will be no set amount of reading to prepare for each class. We will translate and discuss some Sallust in class at each meeting, but the amount we cover will vary. Read enough so that you are prepared to translate in class. As the semester goes on, you'll find it easier to predict how much to read ahead. To start with, you might read about one chapter per class, but the chapters vary in length. We will read continuously without skipping over parts, so don't worry about reading more than you need to. Keep in mind, though, that you should review what we're going to cover in class sometime shortly before class, since "I read this a long time ago" is not an excuse for poor translation in class.

Assessment Information

Introduction

Your final grade in this course will be determined by class participation, two midterm tests, 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, or even a service you pay for. 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: 15%

Midterm 1: 25%

Midterm 2: 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Exam Dates

Midterm 1: Part 1-Monday, October 6th; Part 2-Wednesday, October 8th

Midterm 2: Part 1-Wednesday, November 5th; Part 2-Friday, November 7th

Final Exam: As scheduled by the registrar

Class Participation

You must be in class and prepared to participate in our discussions at every scheduled class meeting. I will ask you to read Latin aloud, translate into English, identify forms, and answer questions regarding grammar and syntax. Please do not read from a prepared translation, but instead retranslate from the Latin in class. If you have a translation in front of you when you are translating in class, your participation grade will be lower than if you are translating from a Latin text without looking at a translation. In addition, we will have more general discussions about Latin and about Sallust. I will assess both the quality and the quantity of your class participation. If at any time you want to know how you are doing in this area, please ask.

Midterm Tests and Final Exam

The midterm tests and final exams will ask you to translate passages from Sallust as well as identify forms and explain syntax. Some of the passages will be drawn from sections of the text we have covered in class, but there will also be an unseen passage on the midterms and the final. For the passages we have covered in class, you will not be allowed any books or notes. For the unseen passages, you will be allowed to use a commentary and dictionary. You will not be allowed to use any digital materials, so if you typically use an online dictionary, you should bring a print one to the exams (although I will bring a print dictionary for the students to share in case anyone forgets to bring one). The second midterm test will not be cumulative and will test material covered after the first midterm test. The final will be cumulative, but will focus on material covered after the second midterm test.

Identification of Forms and Explanation of Syntax

Both in class and on exams, I will ask you to identify forms and explain syntax. On the exams, I will not tell you the information you need to provide. You will need to know what information will constitute a complete identification. The following is a list of the information I would like you to provide for various parts of speech:

Finite Verbs form: person, number, tense, voice, and mood syntax: In what kind of clause or construction is the verb being used? Identify the sequence of tenses if applicable.

Infinitives form: tense, voice, and that it's an infinitive syntax: In what kind of construction is the infinitive being used?

Participles form: gender, case, number, tense, voice, and that it's a participle syntax: What noun does the participle modify (or is it being used substantively)? Why is it in that case?

Nouns form: gender, case, and number syntax: Why is it in that case?

Pronouns form: gender, case, and number syntax: What is the antecedent/referent? Why is the pronoun in the case it's in?

Adjectives form: gender, case, and number syntax: What noun does it modify (or is it being used substantively)? Why is it in that case?

Gerunds form: case and that it's a gerund syntax: Why is it in that case?

Gerundives form: gender, case, number, and that it's a gerundive syntax: What noun does it modify (or is it being used substantively)? Why is it in that case?

Supines form: case and that it's a supine syntax: No information required.

Adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections Just name the part of speech.