

## **Advanced Latin: From Evolution to Devolution: Virgil *Aeneid* VIII and the Satires of Juvenal**

ICCS – Rome, Fall 2009

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### Course Description

In this course, we will read two authors who present images of the ancient city from rather different perspectives. The first selection is from Book VIII of the *Aeneid*, a pivotal section in Virgil's epic which describes Aeneas' path from Ostia to the future site of Rome and his first alliances in Italy. Here, there is a remarkable contrast between the topography and legends of pre-Romulean Rome and the upcoming grandeur of the Augustan city. The narrative culminates in the poet's splendid description of the shield of Aeneas, which traces Rome's history from its heroic age up to Augustus' triumph after Actium.

Following our reading of Virgil, the amount of which will be determined largely by the class' previous experience with Book VIII, we will consider a different image of the ancient city through a close reading of Juvenal's Satires (I and III, and time permitting VII and X). In contrast to Virgil's presentation of the *place* of Rome, Juvenal illustrates a different reality—the Romans' use of their city's *space*. Juvenal's rich illustration of the character of ancient Rome is a noticeable reaction to the genre of epic, containing examples of disreputable citizens, the dangers of city life, foreign immigration, and dysfunctional patron-client relationships. As Juvenal himself states, *difficile est saturam non scribere* and only this genre will be appropriate to describe the moral climate of his day. Finally, we will consider each author's opposing presentation of the simple past and grand present of their respective Romes.

This course aims to develop your proficiency in reading Latin poetry and increase your appreciation for the continuities between Augustan and Silver Age Latin. Additionally, it offers an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the Romans and their city by connecting this course's content with both the Ancient City course and your experience living in Rome.

Class time will be spent translating and analyzing the Latin text as well as discussing the content of particular passages. There will be approximately four short translation quizzes, a mid-term examination and a cumulative final. Additionally, each student will submit one brief article review.

Grading: class preparedness and participation: 20%; mid-term: 20%; final: 25%; quizzes: 20%; article review: 15%.

Books (available at Amazon.com and elsewhere):

### *Required*

Juvenal, *Satires Book I*, edited by S.M. Braund. Cambridge University Press. 1996.

Virgil, *Aeneid Book VIII*, edited by K.W. Gransden. Cambridge University Press. 1976.

*Recommended*

*Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*, edited by J.B. Greenough, G.L. Kittredge, A.A. Howard, and Benj. L. D'Ooge. 2006.

*Cassell's Latin-English – English-Latin Dictionary*, edited by D.P. Simpson. 1977.