

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies

Advanced Latin Syllabus -- Both Sections -- Fall 2011 -- Latin Verse Inscriptions

Preliminary Version, 6 April 2011

Professor: Gregory S. Bucher

Office hours: Generally in the building daily and available; by appointment; by email

Email: bucher@creighton.edu

Meeting times: TBA

Meeting place: TBA

Course description:

Selected funerary verse inscriptions from Courtney's *Musa Lapidaria: A Selection of Latin Verse Inscriptions*.

Objectives:

- Students will deepen their knowledge of Latin.
- Students will learn the special vocabulary and phrasing of verse inscriptions.
- Students will learn the meters of Latin verse inscriptions and learn to apply that knowledge to texts which have unknown meters.
- Students will learn basic epigraphical techniques both in class and from autoptic encounters with inscriptions in the wild.
- Students will learn Roman social history as revealed by Latin verse inscriptions.

Required texts:

Courtney, E. *Musa Lapidaria: A Selection of Latin Verse Inscriptions* (Atlanta: Scholars' Press, 1995) ISBN 0-7885-0142-9.

Course requirements and grading:

Daily attendance and participation	20%
Presentation of an inscription in class	20%
Autoptic midterm examination	30%
Autoptic final examination	30%

Grading scale:

100-91%	A
90-81%	B
80-71%	C
70-61%	D
<61%	F

Fractional percentages will be rounded up in the final calculation.

Note on course requirements:

I intend this class to be fun, but for it to be of value to you (and interesting to me) I need your active cooperation. As a result, attendance and participation are non-negotiables, and please see the enforcement mechanisms outlined below. I think you will find me less draconian in all other aspects of the course.

Attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend class will result in a lowered attendance grade. If you are sick and cannot attend class I expect you to notify me the night before or to present yourself just before class and ask for an excused absence. If you tell me after class you were sick, I'll proceed under the default assumption that you just blew the class

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies

Advanced Latin Syllabus -- Both Sections -- Fall 2011 -- Latin Verse Inscriptions

off. All other absences will be unexcused, and I will take your participation grade down one letter grade for each unexcused absence. If you never miss a class, you will get the full 20% of the participation grade. If you miss one class without an excuse, you will receive 15% of the possible 20%; two classes, 10%, three classes 5%, four classes or more, 0%. So, for example, if you miss 4 classes without an excuse, and do perfect work otherwise, you will only be able to get a C in the course. See the next section, though: I am converting unpreparedness into the equivalent of absences.

Participation includes being prepared by having done assigned readings attentively before class, and thus being able, as well as willing, to speak up in class. It also includes preparation and presentation to the class of an individual poem which you will be assigned. There is no way to rigorously quantify every facet of participation. But, for example, if I call on you in class and you are not prepared (e.g., you give the impression of reading at sight), I would count you as absent that day, under the guidelines laid out above. How would I know, when the text offers a facing translation? Class will always proceed with me asking you detailed questions about forms, meaning, and meter which can only be answered by students who have carefully worked up the text ahead of time.

Autoptic examinations: I have located two major inscriptions which I will send you out to observe and photograph, make a transcription, explain the meter and any irregularities, and provide a commentary giving epigraphical data, noting both commonplaces and unusual diction or phrasing, and offering social history as revealed by the inscription. This will be turned in on the assigned days.

Presentation of inscription: Each student will present, that is, lead the class in translating, an inscription from our textbook. This will take place in the last half of the semester, and the presentation will be expected to take 20 minutes max. Not all inscriptions are the same length, and I will take that into account.

Academic honesty: All work completed for this course must be your own. You may not share your work with any other member of the course. Any infractions will result in failure of the assignment in question. Repeated infraction will result in failure of the course. I do expressly give you permission to work together outside of class translating and scanning.

When called upon in class you may not work from a translation you have prepared. You must work from a pristine text. Do not write in your textbook. If I discover you are working from prepared notes I will count that day as an absence. (Since the book has a facing translation, that ought to offer clues to remember your translation.) I do, however, give you express permission to write out the Latin text and scan it and to bring that to class.

Class schedule:

---> NOTE! "WEEK" means according to the syllabus of the City Course. <---
Note also that in this preliminary syllabus I do not note the weeks when the normal MW schedule will be altered to (e.g.) TW for the sake of the needs of the City Course.

WEEK 2: September 12-16.

Read Lattimore, *Themes in Greek and Latin Epitaphs* 13-20 in the course of this week.

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies

Advanced Latin Syllabus -- Both Sections -- Fall 2011 -- Latin Verse Inscriptions

12 September. Introduction. Discussion.

14 September. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 3: September 19-23.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 21-86 in the course of the week.

19 September. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

21 September. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 4: September 26-30.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 87-141.

26 September. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

28 September. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 5: October 3-7.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 142-158.

3 October. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

5 October. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 6: October 10-14. Sicily Trip. NO CLASS.

WEEK 7: October 17-21. Fall Break NO CLASS.

WEEK 8: October 24-28.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 159-171.

24 October. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

26 October. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 9: October 31-November 4.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 172-214.

31 October. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

2 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 10: November 7-11.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 215-265.

7 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

9 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies

Advanced Latin Syllabus -- Both Sections -- Fall 2011 -- Latin Verse Inscriptions

WEEK 11: November 14-18. Campania Trip. NO CLASS.

WEEK 12: November 21-25. NO CLASS.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 266-300.

21 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

23 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 13: November 28 - December 2.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 301-340.

28 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

30 November. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 14: December 5-9.

Read Lattimore, *Themes* 341-342.

5 December. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

7 December. In-class translation, metrics, and discussion.

WEEK 15: December 12-16. Exam week.

12 December. Final examination.