Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the tools you need to read Latin poetry. In addition to reviewing the basic grammatical principles of Latin, you will learn about Latin poetic meter and gain practice in scanning lines of Latin poetry. You will also become familiar with the various figures of speech used in Roman poetry, as well as Latin poetic vocabulary. Finally, you will become knowledgeable about one of the greatest poems ever written, namely Virgil’s *Aeneid*, as we will spend the semester reading excerpts in Latin from this epic poem of the 1st century BCE (the intervening sections will be read in English). Whenever possible, we will discuss the work as a literary work, and not just as a set of Latin lines to master, and we will contextualize the work in the literary and political context of the Augustan era.

Prerequisites: Latin 101 and 102 (or the equivalent)

Course Website

The course website is accessible through the WebCT homepage. Go to https://webct.rutgers.edu and follow the instructions for logging in as a student. You will need to have a NetID and password to access the website.

Texts (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore, Ferren Mall)


Note: there are free versions of several excellent Latin grammar books and dictionaries online. For example: *Allen and Greenough’s New Latin Grammar* is available here: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0001
The *Lewis and Short Latin Dictionary* is available here: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0059
You can also type “Latin grammar” into “Google Books” to find several other options
Grading and Evaluation

1. Attendance, homework, and class participation  10%
2. 4 Quizzes          40%
3. Midterm (Wed Mar 10)  20%
4. Final (Tues May 11 12-3 pm)  30%

3 Tips for succeeding in this class

1. Show up to class and participate
   Unexcused absences or poor preparation for class will lower your attendance/participation
grade, and your test grades will most likely suffer, as well (esp. if you miss a day with a quiz!).
   Makeup quizzes/tests will only be given in extreme situations (such as a medical emergency
   or religious conflict)

2. Take the grammar review seriously, as well as the extra Aeneid readings in English
   It is absolutely crucial to have a solid grasp of basic Latin grammar and vocabulary in order
to read Latin poetry. You will also get a lot more out of the course if you read the entire
   poem. Too often, the Aeneid is read only in excerpts, and the larger meaning of the poem is
   lost. In particular, the second half of the epic is often ignored.

3. Read your Latin texts “actively,” both at home and in class
   I know it is tempting to write out a translation of the Latin passages you read and then read
   it aloud in class and memorize it for the tests. This is not a good way to learn Latin. You (and
   everyone else in the class) will get much more out of in-class translation if you re-read the
   Latin text in class, even if you have to struggle a bit with it. You don’t have to have to
   translate perfectly in class to prove to me that you’ve done your homework.
Tentative Schedule

*Week 1*

**Wed Jan 20:** Introduction

*Week 2*

**Mon Jan 25:** *Aeneid* Book 1.1-33
Read Introduction pp. xvii-xxxiv and Grammatical Appendix pp 241-44

**Wed Jan 27:** *Aeneid* Book 1.34-64
Read about Vergil’s Meter pp 314-16

*Week 3*

**Mon Feb 1** *Aeneid* Book 1.65-101
Scan 1.1-10; Review noun declensions (pp 245-54)

**Wed Feb 3** *Aeneid* Book 1.132-56 (and read 1.102-131 in English)
Scan 1.11-20; Review adj, pronoun, and number declensions (pp 255-66)

*Week 4*

**Mon Feb 8** Quiz #1
Sight read 1.156 ff in class

**Wed Feb 10** *Aeneid* Book 1.198-229 (through *adloquitur Venus*); also read intervening section in English (i.e. through till 1.197)
Review verbs (pp. 266-86)

*Week 5*

**Mon Feb 15** *Aeneid* Book 1.254-96 (and 1.230-253 in English)
Review irregular verbs (pp 287-90)

**Wed Feb 17** *Aeneid* Book 1.441-65 (and 1.254-440 in English)
Review rules of syntax pp 291-96

*Week 6*

**Mon Feb 22** *Aeneid* Book 1.466-93 (and finish book 1 in English)
Review cases, etc. pp 296-304

**Wed Feb 24** Quiz 2
Sight-read 2.1ff

*Week 7*

**Mon Mar 1** Read 2.21-56 (and intervening passage in English)
Review pp 305-310 (through #376)

**Wed Mar 3** Read 2.199-233 (and 2.57-198 in English)
Review pp 310 (#377)-313

*Week 8*

**Mon Mar 8** Read 2.526-58 (and 2.234-525, 2.59-end of Book 2 in English)
Review pp 316-19 (Rhetorical terms)

**Wed Mar 10** Midterm
Week 9

Spring Break

Week 10

Mon Mar 22  4.1-30 (and Book 3 in English)

Wed Mar 24  4.68-89; 305-330 (and 4.31-67, 90-304 in English)

Week 11

Mon Mar 29  4.331-61

Wed Mar 31  quiz 3
Sight read 4.362ff

Week 12

Mon Apr 5  4.642-74 (and intervening passage in English)

Wed Apr 7  4.675-705 (and Book 5 in English)

Week 13

Mon Apr 12  6.201-11 and 6.450-76 (and 6.1-200, 212-449 and 6.77-846 in English)

Wed Apr 14:  6.847-886 (+ might want to start reading Books 7-8 in English)

Week 14

Mon Apr 19  Quiz 4
Sight read 6.887-901

Wed Apr 21  10.420-63 and read in English books 7-9 and 10.1-429

Week 15

Mon Apr 26  10.464-509 and read rest of 10 and 11 in English

Wed Apr 28  12.887-918 and read 12.1-886 in English

Week 16

Mon May 3  12.919-952

Tues May 11, 12-3 pm:  Final Exam