This course is designed to introduce students to one of the oldest and most influential genres of Latin literature, namely comedy. Our main Latin text this semester will be Plautus' *Amphitruo*. We will read the entire play in Latin (1146 lines), paying close attention in class to issues of translation, style, meter, and performance. In addition, we will place this play in the larger context of Roman history, culture, and literature in the late 3rd and early 2nd centuries B.C. To that end, we will supplement the primary text readings with articles, as well as with other primary texts in translation (namely, more plays of Plautus and the other great Roman comedy writer, Terence). The goals of this course, then, are to improve your Latin abilities, to learn more about the Romans via their version of "pop culture," and to answer the all important questions: why did the Romans find Plautus funny, and do you?

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.

Required Texts

Note: All texts can be purchased at RU Ferren Mall Bookstore


Note: The following website contains both a Latin and English version of the *Amphitruo*, as well as an online Latin dictionary and grammar: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/

Grading and Evaluation

1. Attendance and class participation 10%
2. Quizzes (Sept 21, Nov. 12) 20%
3. Midterm (Oct 19) 20%
4. Paper, 6-8 pages (Dec 10) 20%
5. Final (Dec 16, 12-3 pm) 30%

Note: Class attendance is required, and students are responsible for translating the assigned lines of Plautus before each class, in addition to reading the commentary on the relevant lines in Christenson's edition. I recommend that when you translate in class, you do not read from a prepared translation but instead look directly at the Latin text. There will also be occasional reading assignments in English (available online, either through e-reserves or the course website), and individual students may be asked to initiate or lead a discussion on this material in class.
Schedule

**Week 1**

**Fri Sept 3**

Class: Introduction

HW: Read Christenson's Introduction, pp 1-45; *Amphitruo* Argumentum I and II (19 lines) and lines 1-37

**Week 2**

**Tues Sept 7**

Class: Christenson's Intro.; Translate and discuss Argumentum I and II and lines 1-37;

HW: Read *Amphitruo* lines 38-96; "Plautus" by G. B. Conte (online)

**Fri Sept 10**

Class: Trans. and discuss *Amph.* lines 38-96; Conte

HW: Read *Amph.* 97-152

**Week 3**

**Tues Sept 14**

Class: *Amph.* 97-152; "A Plautine Problem Play" by E. Segal

HW: *Amph.* 153-202

**Fri Sept 17**

Class: *Amph.* 153-202; Segal article

HW: Study for Quiz #1 (lines 1-152)

**Week 4**

**Tues Sept 21**

Class: Quiz #1 on Prologue (lines 1-152); Meter

HW: Meter worksheet (and read Christenson pp 56-71); *Amph.* 203-247

**Fri Sept 24**

Class: Go over meter worksheet; *Amph.* 203-247

HW: *Amph.* 248-299

**Week 5**

**Tues Sept 28**

Class: *Amph.* 248-99

HW: *Amph.* 300-350; "Gods and Mortals: Amphitruo" by T. J. Moore

**Fri Oct 1**

Class: *Amph.* 300-350; Moore article

HW: *Amph.* 351-415

**Week 6**

**Tues Oct 5**

Class: *Amph.* 351-415

HW: *Amph.* 416-462; "Plautus and the Public Stage" by E. Gruen

**Fri Oct 8**

Class: *Amph.* 416-462; Gruen article

HW: *Amph.* 463-498
Week 7
Tues Oct 12
Class: Amph. 463-498
HW: Amph. 499-550

Fri Oct 15
Class: Amph. 499-550
HW: Study for Midterm (1-550)

Week 8
Tues Oct 19
Class: Midterm (1-550)

Fri Oct 22
Class: Amph. 551-602; Menaechmi
HW: Amph. 603-653; finish Menaechmi (ie Berg & Parker pp 139-184)

Week 9
Tues Oct 26
Class: Amph. 603-653; Menaechmi
HW: Amph. 654-710; "The Menaechmi: Roman Comedy of Errors" by E. Segal

Fri Oct 29
Class: Amph. 654-710; Segal article
HW: Amph. 711-761; "Terence" by D. F. Sutton

Week 10
Tues Nov 2
Class: Amph. 711-761; Terence
HW: Amph. 761-811; Adelphoe Acts I-III (ie Berg & Parker 346-76)

Fri Nov 5
Class: Amph. 761-811; Adelphoe
HW: Amph. 812-860; Adelphoe Acts IV-V (ie Berg & Parker 376-405)

Week 11
Tues Nov 9
Class: Amph. 812-860; Adelphoe
HW: Study for Quiz #2

Fri Nov 12
Class: Quiz #2 (on Act II of Amphitruo, ie lines 551-860)
HW: Amph. 861-907; "Themes and Conflicts" by R. Hunter

Week 12
Tues Nov 16
Class: Amph. 861-907; "Themes and Conflicts"
HW: Amph. 908-955

Fri Nov 19
Class: Amph. 908-955
HW:  *Amph.* 956-1008

**Week 13**
**Tues Nov 23**
Class: *Amph.* 956-1008  
HW:  *Amph.* 1009-1034; skim fragments (with commentary); "*Amphitruo, Bacchae,* and Metathea" by N. W. Slater

Fri Nov 26 --THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 14**
**Tues Nov 30**
Class: *Amph.* 1009-1034; fragments; Slater article  
HW:  *Amph.* 1035-1096;

**Fri Dec 3**
Class: *Amph.* 1035-1096  
HW:  *Amph.* 1097-1146

**Week 15**
**Tues Dec 7**
Class: *Amph.* 1097-1146  
HW:  PAPER!

**Fri Dec 10**
Class:  **Paper due in class**; Reception of Plautus