SEMINAR IN LATIN
(580:370) Spring 2006
SENECA MORAL EPISTLES

Dr. Thomas J. Figueira               Dept. of Classics, Ruth Adams Bldg. DC
Meetings: MW 4:30-5:50, HH A3, CAC    932-9797 (messages/general information)
Classics Office Hrs.: LSH A312: W1:15-50 Phone: 445-6372 (voice mail)
E-mail: figueira@rci.rutgers.edu

I. Texts:

Required:

Recommended:

II. Grading and Requirements:

A. Class Work (concerning Latin): 20%
   Mid-Term: 25% (March 6)
   Term Paper: 25% (due May 1)
   Final Exam: 30% (May 5, 4:00 PM to 7:00 AM)

B. The Mid-Term is an in-class exam which will test material to that date. It will contain translation of prepared passages, questions on grammar and syntax, and a sight passage. An extra credit section will be available on Seneca and his philosophy and worldview.

C. The term paper will research an aspect of Seneca’s life and work, with specific references to our readings in Latin and in modern research. The topic is to be chosen by March 1 and discussed with the instructor in an individual meeting. A list of suggestions will be circulated. The paper is due on at the beginning of class on May 1. It should be no less than 5 and no more than 10 double-spaced type-written pages in length. The format of the paper should follow an accepted scholarly format and model (e.g., the MLA Style Sheet).

D. Although emphasis in the final examination will fall on the passages treated in the second half of the course, this exam will test the whole range of material presented in the course. Its format will be similar to that of the mid-term with the exception that an essay question will be included.
III. Aims of the Course:
Our main emphasis will be on increasing proficiency in the reading of Latin prose and on understanding Roman culture during the Augustan principate by means of a study of Seneca, whose works encapsulate the literary and intellectual trends of the first century AD, as well as providing a significant standard for Latin prose composition. We shall also turn our attention to Roman society, institutions, and political history, insofar as these topics are necessary to an understanding of the Epistulae Morales. Class participation by the students will be considered an integral part of our work on Seneca.

IV. Reading Assignments
Our primary objective in the first part of this course will be a close reading of the Senecan epistles to Lucilius that are included on the Classics graduate reading lists, as these are characteristic and important selections. They will be taken in numerical order, and are 7, 12, 47, 51, 56, 86, 114, and 122. These readings occupy c. 36 pages in the standard page format of the Oxford Classical Text series. We should complete these readings in the first half of the course. Thereupon we will supplement these letters with other selections from our main text, the edition of Summers. The second series will comprise Epistles 11, 15, 18, 21, 27, 28, 44, 51, 53, 54, 56, 63, 80, 84, and 90 (c. 50 OCT pp.), and will be read in that order (unless otherwise specified). Our translation and close reading of the text will also be supplemented during the early part of the course with lectures on Seneca. Besides beginning Epistle 7, your first mission is to read the brief entry of L.D. Reynolds, Miriam T. Griffin, and Elaine Fantham in OCD3 96-98 (Alexander Reference or Classics Study Collection in RAB).

V. Bibliography (on reserve at Alexander Library, except for “*”)
Paper Topics:

I. Study on Epistles 1, 2, 3
II. Study on Epistles 5, 6
III. Study on Epistles 16, 23
IV. Study on Epistles 33, 34, 37
V. Study on Epistles 38, 40
VI. Study on Epistles 41, 42
VII. Study on Epistles 50, 52
VIII. Study on Epistles 55, 57
IX. Study on Epistles 60, 61, 62
X. Study on Epistles 72, 77
XI. Study on Epistles 78, 79
XII. Study on Epistle 83
XIII. Study on Epistle 86
XIV. Study on Epistle 88
XV. Study on Epistle 92
XVI. Study on Epistle 94
XVII. Study on Epistle 104
XVIII. Study on Epistles 110, 112
XVIX. Study on Epistle 124