

CLASSICS 202-202 (On-line)

Introduction to Roman Life and Literature (DRAFT)

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TEXTBOOKS

Required:

- ❖ David M. Gwynn, *The Roman Republic: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, 2012. ISBN 978-0-19-959511-2, \$11.95
- ❖ Gaius Valerius Catullus, *The Complete Poetry of Catullus*, translated by D. Mulroy, Madison, 2002. ISBN 978-0-299-17774-4, \$19.95

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course examines the period of time that spans from the legendary beginnings of Roman civilization - around 750 BC- to the collapse of the Roman Republic in 27 BC. The course attempts to relate literary texts of the Roman Republic to the social and cultural history of that period, and by doing so, offer the opportunity to raise and develop various issues essential to the understanding of Roman civilization. The literary sources will be presented within their chronological framework, in order to relate them directly with the historical events and the socio-cultural environment that produced them. At the same time the authors and their literary genres will be introduced, as well as specific topics related to Roman society during the Republic.

By the end of this course

- you will become familiar with major literary works, genres and authors of the Roman Republican period;
- you will be able to place these literary works in their social and historical context;
- you will have explored various aspects of Roman society and culture;
- you will know major events in the history of the Roman Republic and important people who helped shape the Roman world.

Please read the following pages carefully. They provide essential information regarding the course and how it will be administered on-line.

COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

On-line courses are designed to allow students to work independently and to complete readings and assignments around their particular schedules. For the most part, in on-line courses contact between instructors and students is kept to a minimum. This is partially remedied by the presence of the Discussion Forums, which allow students to engage in a dialogue about the course and hopefully build something similar to a 'community'.

General Discussion Forum

In addition to the scheduled Discussion Forums on specific topics (see below), which are part of the course requirements, a General Discussion Forum is listed at the top of the Forum topics and will remain available throughout the term. **Please use the General Forum for all of your questions regarding the class logistics, assignments, D2L help, or other general inquiries.** Students should also feel free to provide answers to questions posted by fellow students. However, if you need more immediate assistance or have

technical problems with a quiz or downloading files, don't post on the General Discussion, but contact the instructor by email immediately (covae@uwm.edu). The General Discussion Forum will be monitored regularly and responses to questions will be posted in a timely manner. Please remember to check the General Discussion Forum periodically (at least 2 times a week) since the discussion there may provide answers to your questions.

In order to do well in this class, you must plan to visit the D2L site often, checking for announcements on the home page or updates in the 'Content' section. Additionally, I will email students to make announcements, before each module to remind them of upcoming assignments and quizzes and before exams. I will be emailing via the D2L email server using the students' UWM email address, therefore, please make sure to check your @uwm email account or have those emails forwarded to your preferred email server (gmail, yahoo, etc).

Finally, **Be Prepared to Read All Documents, Guides, and Instructions SLOWLY and CAREFULLY.** Many things we take for granted in a face-to-face course must be conveyed on-line via written documents; therefore, it is essential that you take the time to read all documents posted on D2L and understand the information provided.

CONTENT DELIVERY

THE MODULE

The course is divided into MODULES (see the end of this document for the list of modules). Depending on the topic(s), each Module corresponds to one to three weeks. Three Modules during the semester will include no new reading; instead, you will be required to review and complete an Essay Assignment (see below).

Module Guide

A Guide for each Module is available and should be consulted first at the beginning of that particular module. The guide will provide essential information, including: brief description of topics/content, required readings, and the schedule for assignments to be completed (quizzes, discussions, etc., see below). You should complete the assigned readings first. Readings can include both ancient literary works in translation and book chapters/articles from secondary sources. You must do the readings, preferably taking notes for later review. In addition to the assigned readings, notes and corresponding handouts (and, in some cases, a PowerPoint presentation) will be available on d2l, designed to supplement the readings.

ASSIGNMENTS

Within each module, presumably after completing the required reading and studying the relevant notes and handouts, students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. All assignments will be completed on-line. These assignments include **Reading Quizzes**, participation in **Discussion Forums**, and **Essay Assignments**. These are described below.

1. READING QUIZZES

There will be a total of 9 graded Reading Quizzes (plus one ungraded Sample Quiz in Module #1) assigned throughout the semester. The questions for these quizzes will be based on the reading completed for that module. **The quizzes will be timed so that once you begin a quiz you will have 15 minutes to complete it. The quizzes will consist of 10 true/false and/or multiple choice questions.** Quizzes will be available to you to access for the entire period of the module. **You can begin the quiz anytime during that period, but you must complete the quiz within the allocated time-frame, in one sitting.** You will not be allowed to begin a quiz and then return to it later. Partial attempts will be graded too, so if you don't finish the quiz, you will receive a grade based on the questions answered. Obviously, since

the quizzes are based on the material from the readings and lecture notes, it is essential that you complete the readings and study the lecture notes BEFORE you begin a quiz. The quizzes are not designed so that you can simply look up individual answers in your texts. The time limit requires that you complete the readings and be prepared before you begin the quiz; if not, you will not have enough time to complete it. The quizzes will constitute 40% of your final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped automatically at the end of the semester, so that your final quiz grade will be based on your 8 best scores (each graded quiz is thus worth 5%). **Remember:** each reading quiz must be completed in one, 15-minute sitting. The grades for each quiz should show up under the “Grades” tab immediately upon completion. If you notice that you do not have a grade for a certain quiz after 24 hours, please contact the instructor.

2. DISCUSSION FORUMS

For several modules, you will be required to participate in an on-line discussion forum. The discussion is designed to give you the opportunity to reflect on a reading more critically and consider a specific literary work or topic in the larger context of Roman literature and society. There will be 3 discussion forums (in addition to one ungraded Sample Discussion in Module #1).

The format for these is simple. A question will be posted, related to the topic(s) for that module. You will be asked to write:

- 1) an **Initial Post to the discussion question**, and then
- 2) a **Reply Post to a fellow student’s post**.

You should feel free to post more often, but the first two posts will be part of the evaluation.

The first **Initial Post** should be at no less than **250 words**. When constructing your argument you should use at least one specific example taken from the relevant reading. A good response should not only answer the question thoughtfully, but also offer an original contribution to the discussion.

The second **Reply Post** should be about **150 words** and should provide constructive comments or feedback to another student’s initial post. Please note that simply agreeing or for example, saying “nice post” is not sufficient to receive credit.

You should compose your responses in a Word file, proofread them, check the word count and then copy and paste them in the space provided. Please, do not post responses as attachments.

Each discussion forum will be worth **5 points** making **15%** of your final course grade. Posts on the discussion forums will be graded on **a scale from 0 to 3 for the Initial Post and 0 to 2 for the Reply Post.**

Initial Post:

- 0 = failure to complete the assignment on time or irrelevant post
- 1 = post of little substance and content
- 2 = post that answers the essential part of the question but lacks adequate support
- 3 = relevant, thoughtful and well-structured post

Reply Post:

- 0 = failure to complete the assignment on time
- 1 = post of little substance and content
- 2 = thoughtful response that provides good comments and well-supported arguments

Participants in Discussion Forums should treat each other with respect and abide by normal rules of good taste and healthy dialogue. To facilitate discussion the class will be randomly divided into smaller

groups. The grades for Discussions will be posted on D2L approximately two weeks after the Discussion closes. More information on the Discussion Forum will be available prior to the first assignment.

3. ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

For several modules, you will be required to complete an Essay Assignment. During these weeks, no new topics will be introduced. The essay questions will focus on topics covered in previous modules and will be based on both the readings and lecture notes for those topics as well as supplemental readings, which will be provided by the instructor. This assignment is designed to make you think and write critically about the topics presented in the previous modules. You will be allowed to consult your notes and the readings themselves. There are a total of 3 Essay Assignments, worth 15% each. More information on the Essay Assignments will be available prior to the first assignment.

STUDENT EVALUATION

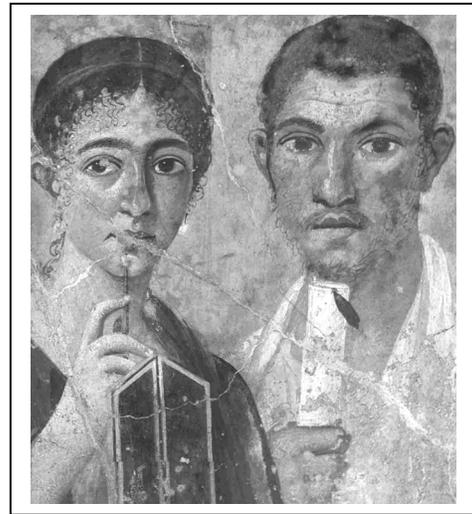
GRADING

- 1) Quizzes: 40%
- 2) Discussion Forums: 15%
- 3) Essay Assignments: 45%

Grading Scale

Essay Assignments and Quizzes will be graded on a scale of 100 points. These will correspond to the following letter grades:

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
Below 60	F



Extra Credit

There will be **no extra-credit** options for this course. All work must be completed as assigned.

PLAGIARISM

While it should not be necessary to mention this, any forms of plagiarism (i.e., copying text directly from your textbook, other books, the lecture notes, or the internet and presenting it as your own work), will result in an F and the student will be reported to the Dean of Students at UWM. You simply cannot cut/paste word-for-word information into your assignments (Discussion or Essay). Likewise, you must use quotation marks when using a specific phrase from books or lectures. If you use information taken directly from lecture notes/texts, you must cite your source to avoid looking like you are cheating. In the case of Discussion Posts, students who copy or closely mirror posts of another student will not receive credit. All work completed should be your own!

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

For university policies on students with disabilities, religious observances, students called to active military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment), academic misconduct, complaint procedure, grade appeal procedure and other please see the following link to the Secretary of the University website: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

STUDENTS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: If any student requires special assistance please discuss your requirements with the *Student Accessibility Center* (MIT Rm. 112) and let Professor Cova know what accommodations you will need.

Certificate Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CAMS)

UWM offers a number of interdisciplinary certificates that students can earn in addition to the usual majors and minors. The Certificate Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CAMS) is designed to encourage students to pursue a serious interest in the ancient Mediterranean world in a structured way. A variety of disciplines are concerned with reconstructing various aspects of ancient civilizations, including history, archaeology, art history, anthropology, philosophy, and literary studies. This course (Classics 202) counts toward fulfilling the requirements of the CAMS certificate. For more information on the CAMS program, including course requirements, faculty, and upcoming events, be sure to check our website:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/lets/cams/>

If you have an interest in ancient Mediterranean studies, there is no reason not to sign up as a CAMS student. There is no penalty for not completing the curriculum. CAMS events are a great way to get to know other students with interests similar to yours. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up as a CAMS student right away, please contact me, since I am the CAMS Program Coordinator (office: Curtin Hall 814, email: covae@uwm.edu, tel. 229-3239).

MODULES (DRAFT)

Module 1

Introduction

Ungraded Sample Quiz
Ungraded Sample Discussion

Module 2

Overview of Roman History and Society 1 (ca. 900-133 BC)

- Foundation of Rome and Roman Monarchy
 - Roman Republic: Rome's Expansion in Italy and in the Mediterranean
 - Roman Republican Government, Class Structure and Slavery.
- Quizzes #1 and #2

Module 3

Early Republican Literature in Rome: Roman Comedy

- The Origin of Roman Literature and Roman Theater
 - Plautus, *The Brothers Menaechmus*
 - Terence, *The Brothers*
- Quizzes #3 and #4
Discussion #1

Module 4

Essay Assignment #1

- Module 5** **Overview of Roman History and Society 2 (133-27 BC):**
 ○ The Late Republic: Caesar, the Civil Wars and the Rise of Octavian
 Quiz #5
- Module 6** **Late Republican Literature in Rome: Cicero and his Prose**
 ○ Cicero, *Against Verres I*
 ○ Cicero, *On Duties III*
- Quizzes #6 and #7
 Discussion #2
- Module 7** **Essay assignment #2**
- Module 8** **Late Republican Literature: Catullus and his Poetry**
 ○ Selection of poems
 Quiz #8
 Discussion #3
- Module 9** **Catullus's legacy: Latin Elegiac Poetry (Tibullus and Propertius)**
 ○ Selection of poems
 Quiz #9
- Module 10** **Essay Assignment #3**

THIS COURSE MEETS HUMANITIES GER CRITERIA and UW SYSTEM SHARED LEARNING GOALS as follows.

This course not only presents to the students literary texts, genres and authors of the Roman Republic, but also relates these sources to the social and cultural history of the time offering the opportunity to investigate various issues essential to the understanding of Roman civilization. The analysis and discussion of literary texts illuminate topics that are of universal concern, while the study of Roman society and culture prompts discussion of ideas and concepts that are still relevant today. By completing the reading and writing assignments for the course the students also engage in a critical use of primary and secondary sources and are encouraged to develop and express personal ideas.

Criterion 1. The course will teach students to identify the formation, traditions, and ideas essential to major bodies of historical, cultural, literary, or philosophical knowledge.

Classic 202 introduces students to the origin and expansion of ancient Roman civilization and as such, familiarizes students with traditions and ideas essential to Western culture. The course does so by reading and analyzing ancient Roman literary works in translation including historical, rhetorical, philosophical, theatrical and poetical texts, and by providing a socio-historical and visual/material context to them. The students will appreciate the influence of ancient Greece on Roman literature and society and the complex relationship between Greek and Roman culture, as well as the legacy left by Rome to Western culture. They will also become familiar with Rome's government in the Republican period, which had a significant influence on modern Western political thought, and with the political circumstances that led to the end of the Republic and to the rule by a sole Emperor. The study of texts and some associated monuments will also introduce students to many cultural and social institutions that still exist today.

Criterion 2. The course will teach students to respond coherently and persuasively to the materials of humanities study; this may be through logical, textual, formal, historical, or aesthetic analysis, argument and/or interpretation;

Classics 202 allows students to achieve Humanities GER Criterion 2 by helping them reflect on and examine critically ancient literary works and consider specific works or topics in the larger context of Roman literature and society. Students will be given the opportunity to dig deeper into various topics related to the study of Roman literature and society, while also offering them the opportunity to inject their own interpretations (and opinions) of the class readings.

One way Criteria 1 and 2 will be achieved is through On-line Discussion Forums (see above). Format and assessment rubric for these On-line Discussion Forums are also available on a separate document posted on the D2L site of the course.

UW System Shared Learning Goals - Goal 3

By reading, analyzing and discussing ancient Roman literary works from a number of perspectives (literary, socio-political, cultural), completing on-line reading quizzes and writing short pieces for the Discussion Forums as well as the Essay Assignments, students taking this course fulfill goal 3 of the "UW System Shared Learning Goals," i.e., achieving 'effective communication skills including listening, speaking, reading, writing and information literacy.' The on-line quizzes will test their ability to read and understand the ancient sources before their discussion in class, while the writing assignments (i.e. Discussion Forums and Essays) will assess how well the students are able to respond to the course material and communicate effectively on those topics.

(For more information about On-line Quizzes, Discussion Forums and Essay Assignments, see above and on the D2L site for the course).