Introduction to Roman Life and Literature
CLASSICS 202-LEC 001

Meeting time: Tu-Th, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Meeting place: Lubar S195

Instructor: Elisabetta Cova
Assistant Professor of Classics
Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Office: Curtin Hall 814 Phone: (414)-229 3239 Email: covae@uwm.edu

Office hours:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (N.B. Additional reading will be posted on D2L as PDFs):

- Marcus Tullius Cicero, *Selected Works*, translated by M. Grant, Harmondsworth, 1960 (or later editions) ISBN 9780140440997, $17.00 (available at the UWM Bookstore)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Classic 202 (Introduction to Roman Life and Literature) examines the period of time spanning from the legendary beginnings of Roman civilization -around the eighth century BCE- to the collapse of the Roman Republic at the end of the first century BCE, with a focus on Roman culture, literature, and society during this period. 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 and important people in the history of the Roman Republic.

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.

Criteria 1 and 2 will be achieved through On-line Discussion Forums (see below). 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 questions on the exams, 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 short essay questions on exams) 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 Exams, see below and on the D2L site for the course).

COURSE MATERIAL

D2L Site
There is a Desire to Learn (D2L) site for this course where you can find course material, including syllabus, additional readings (in pdf format), class handouts, and PowerPoint presentations as well as announcements, review outlines and exam guidelines that will be posted gradually throughout the semester.

Units (Readings, Handouts, Presentations)
The course content has been divided into units (i.e., ‘Overview of Roman History’, ‘Roman Society’, Roman Literature’, etc…). Depending on the topic(s) each unit may last from one to three weeks.

Readings have been assigned for each unit; they include both ancient literary works in translation and book chapters/articles from secondary sources. In the first part of the semester, the readings will be available on the D2L site either as web links or as pdf files; the two required textbooks will be used later in the semester.

For each unit, one or more handouts (available on D2L) will serve as outlines to the lectures. The handouts contain key terms and important themes that will be presented in class; they may also provide study questions to help you prepare for in-class discussion of the readings. The handouts will be posted on the D2L site at least two days before each class meeting. Printed copies of the handouts will not be provided by the instructor, you are responsible for printing copies of the handouts prior to each lecture and bringing them to class. At the end of each unit, when available, PowerPoint presentations will also be posted on D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Online Reading Quizzes
   There will be 1 ungraded sample quiz and 9 scheduled weekly quizzes available online on D2L. The quizzes will test your knowledge of the assigned readings and will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. They will constitute 40% of your final grade. No make-ups are allowed, but 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%). Detailed information about the format, content and schedule of the quizzes is provided in a separate document titled ‘How-to’ Guide for Quizzes posted on the D2L site in the ‘Course Resource Library’/”How-to” Guides’ folder under ‘Content’. Reminders will be sent to your UWM email address throughout the semester.

2. Online Discussion Forums
   During the course of the semester, you will be asked to participate in three on-line discussion forums focused around a specific question relevant to the reading/topic for class the following week. The class will be divided into smaller groups of 6-8 for this assignment; you will be asked to post an initial response to the discussion question online, and a reply to a fellow student’s post. The discussion is designed to give you the opportunity to reflect on the reading more critically and consider a specific literary work or topic in the larger context of Roman literature and society. Discussion in class will follow up and complement this online component.

   The format for these is simple. A question will be posted, related to the topic(s) for that week and each student will be required to engage in a discussion of that topic in two ways:

   1) Post an Initial Post to the discussion question as provided .
      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.

   2) Post one Reply Post to a fellow student’s post offering additional support, criticism, and any additional commentary.
      The second Reply Post should be about 150 words and should provide constructive comments or feedback to another student’s initial post

Each discussion forum will be worth 5 points making 15% of the 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. The
following rubric will help explain how each post is graded, keeping in mind that posts which do not adhere to the prescribed word limits will automatically receive point reductions:

INITIAL POST (3 pts):
0 = did not complete assignment (or completely off track/nonsensical)
1 = little content, lacking analysis, unclear argument, low word count
2 = relevant analysis, but less polished stylistically and without adequate support to the ideas expressed in it
3 = thoughtful, well-structured post that addresses the discussion question and offers original and well-supported comments on the topic

REPLY POST (2 pts)
0 = did not complete assignment (or completely off track/nonsensical)
1 = little content, low word count, comments that do not address specific points, counterarguments that are not very well supported
2 = thoughtful, well-written response with well-supported counterarguments or comments

More detailed information about the content, length and timing of these postings, as well as a rubric is available in a separate document titled ‘How-to’ Guide for Discussion Forums posted on the D2L site in the ‘Course Resource Library/”How-to” Guides’ folder under ‘Content’.

3. Examinations
There will be a **mid-term exam** on **XXX** and a **final exam** on **XXX** as indicated in the Final Examination Schedule for the XXX Semester available on the XXX Schedule of Classes webpage. Exams are not cumulative; exam guidelines and reviews will be posted on d2l in advance of the exams.

**GRADING**
1) Exams: 45%
2) Quizzes: 40%
3) Discussion Forums: 15%

**Grading Scale**
Exams and quizzes will be graded on a scale of 100 points. These will correspond to the following letter grades:

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<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>100-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>86-83</td>
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<td>Below 60</td>
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MAKE-UP POLICY
Exams and quizzes missed cannot be made up except under exceptional circumstances supported by documentation. If a special circumstance does exist, you must make prior arrangements.

PLAGIARISM
While it should not be necessary to mention this, any forms of plagiarism (copying text directly from your textbook, other books, the lecture notes, or the internet) 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 (i.e., Discussion Forums). 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 linguistics, 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/letsci/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 (Prof. Cova), since I am the CAMS Program Coordinator (covae@uw.edu, tel. 229-3239)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS
Assignments and Reading: TBA

WEEK 1
Introduction
OVERVIEW OF ROMAN HISTORY 1 (900-509 BCE)
- Pre-Roman Italy
- The Foundation of Rome
- Roman Monarchy
- Birth of the Roman Republic
WEEK 2

Overview of Roman History 1 (900-509 BCE) (continued)
OVERVIEW OF ROMAN HISTORY 2 (509-133 BCE)
  o The Early and Middle Republic: Roman Expansion in Italy and in the Mediterranean

WEEK 3

ROMAN SOCIETY 1:
  o Roman Republican Government, Class Structure, Women, Slaves, Freedmen and Patronage.

WEEK 4

ROMAN LITERATURE 1:
Early Republican Literature: Roman Comedy and Plautus
  o The Origin of Roman Literature and Roman Theater
  o Plautus, The Brothers Menaechmus (Menaechmi)

WEEK 5

Roman Literature 1 (continued):
Early Republican Literature: Roman Comedy and Plautus
  o Plautus, Pseudolus

WEEK 6

ROMAN LITERATURE 2:
The “Hellenizing” Culture of Rome: Roman Comedy and Terence
  o Terence, The Brothers (Adelphoe)

WEEK 7

ROMAN SOCIETY 2:
Pompeii and the Everyday Life of the Romans

WEEK 8

MIDTERM EXAM

OVERVIEW OF ROMAN HISTORY 3 (133-27 BC):
The Late Republic: Caesar, the Civil Wars and the Rise of Octavian

WEEK 9

ROMAN LITERATURE 3:
Late Republican Literature: Cicero and his Prose.
  o Cicero, Against Verres, I

WEEK 10

Philosophy in Rome: Cicero, On Duties III

WEEK 11

Cicero, On Old Age

WEEK 12

ROMAN LITERATURE 4:
Late Republican Literature: Catullus and his Poetry
WEEK 13

Catullus and his Poetry (continued)

ROMAN LITERATURE 5:
Catullus’s Legacy: Latin Elegiac Poetry (Tibullus and Propertius)

Required Readings (on D2L):
• Tibullus, Poems I. 1, I. 2 and I. 5 (pdf),
• Introduction to Tibullus and explanatory notes on the poems (pdf);
• Propertius, Poems I.1, I.16, I.19, II.1, II.5, II.7, II.13 and IV.7 (pdf)
• Introduction to Propertius and explanatory notes on the poems (pdf)

WEEK 14

Catullus’s Legacy: Latin Elegiac Poetry (Tibullus and Propertius)(continued)

WEEK 15

Review/Catch-up day
Last Day of Class

FINAL EXAMINATION