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## Description

This course, making extensive use of resources available via the internet, explores the literature of the early Roman Empire, with a particular emphasis on the works of authors who were active during the period of Nero's reign. These authors include Seneca, Lucan, and Petronius. Students will participate in a weekly webcast lecture, an on-line discussion moderated by faculty members from participating institutions from the Associated Colleges of the South, and weekly tutorials with faculty members at their home institutions. This

course is specifically designed for advanced students and will require extensive reading in more than one genre of Latin literature and a rigorous study of the cultural and historical context of Rome in the first century CE and current interpretive debates.

## Course Components

**Lectures:** Beginning September 18, students and faculty members will "meet" for lectures on Monday evenings. Those from institutions in the Central Time zone (Centenary, Rhodes, Southwestern) will have class from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students in the Eastern Time zone (Furman, Rollins, and Washington and Lee) will meet from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The final lecture will take place on Monday, November 27.

**Discussion:** Students will participate in an on-line discussion during the week (Tuesday-Thursday). This will take place on [the course WebBoard](#). (Click "New User" to create your login.)

**Tutorial:** Finally, students will meet by arrangement with the participating faculty members on their campuses for a one-hour tutorial each week.

## Objectives

Advanced students of Latin will continue developing their fluency by studying the literary work that emerged during the early Principate in the wake of the major writers of the Augustan age (i.e., Virgil, Horace, and Ovid). With a focus on the period of activity approximately contemporaneous with the life and reign of the Emperor Nero, the course will explore the evolution of three major genres: epistles, epic, and the novel as reflected in the writing of Seneca, Lucan, and Petronius. This course will also introduce the students to the current trends in interpretive scholarship.

## Course Requirements

**Preparation:** Students will be expected to work through the assigned reading for each lecture, discussion, and tutorial. This course is intended for advanced, mature students, who can effectively and conscientiously work through the readings and fulfill the assignments with minimal supervision. The participating faculty members presuppose that students will come to each event prepared to participate actively. Students should take advantage of every resource to ensure that they thoroughly understand the readings and have a command of the interpretive issues that will form the basis of the lectures, discussions, and tutorials.

**Lectures** On Monday evenings, beginning on September 18, students will be expected to participate in the on-line lecture, which will begin, as noted above, at 6:00 p.m. in the Central time zone and at 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern time zone. The lectures will originate at one of the participating institutions and be available as a RealAudio webcast to all of the participants in the course. (Depending on the nature of each institution's facilities, the computing infrastructure where the lecture originates, and the capacity of the network at the time of the lecture, the event may include digital video as well.) Shortly before the lecture begins, students will log into a chat room, which will allow the director of the course to monitor the reception of the lecture, ensure that students receive credit for attending, and permit students and faculty members to direct questions to the lecturer. Because the lectures will be available over the internet both during the live webcast and as archived files, which participants can subsequently access from the website for the course, there will be no excuse for missing a lecture, and students can expect to encounter

questions on the examinations concerning the content of the lectures and the lecturers' responses to questions from the participants.

**Discussion** Students will be expected to share their views of the readings in an on-line discussion. A set of study questions will accompany each reading assignment. Students will post their responses to these questions by no later than 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday as noted on the schedule below. The response to each question should be at least a paragraph in length. Consequently, the set of responses should represent at least an hour of focused, reflective engagement with the readings **after** the texts have been thoroughly read and studied. The director of the course will review the responses and post them to the discussion list by 10:00 p.m. Please note that the director of the course will return to the student any posting to the discussion list that does not meet minimal standards of engagement with the material. (Having one's contribution returned may make it difficult to meet the weekly deadlines for postings.) After the responses to the study questions appear on the discussion list, students will then be responsible for carefully reading and commenting on at least one other set of responses. Students must post their comments within twenty-four hours, i.e., by 10:00 p.m. on Thursday (unless otherwise instructed by the director of the course). Students will receive full credit for adequately responding to the study questions and providing thoughtful commentary on the responses of at least one of their peers. However, the tutors and director of the course may award additional credit to students whose engagement with the readings or commentary on the responses of others is particularly exceptional. (As noted below in the section on projects, the on-line discussion for the week of November 6-10 will vary from the format described above.) Participation in the on-line discussion, as outlined above, will account for twenty percent of the final grade.

**Tutorials:** Each student will meet for at least one hour every week with a faculty member at her or his home institution. (In subsequent discussions, these faculty members will be referred to as "mentors.") The times and locations of these meetings will be determined on each campus. Students are responsible for contacting their faculty mentors and finalizing the details of their weekly meetings. The quality of these meetings, as measured by students' preparation, attendance, and engagement with the readings, will account for ten percent of their final grades.

**Project:** In consultation with their mentors, students will develop a major project that incorporates a close reading of one or more texts from the period and reflects a familiarity with the current interpretive issues. Students will be able to choose from three different types of projects: essays addressing major topics developed by the faculty of the course, a translation and commentary of a selection from the works of the authors we will study during the semester, or a survey of the secondary literature on a topic of scholarly debate. The project must be between 1500 and 2000 words in length. Students must decide on their projects and topics by **Friday, October 6**. Following the format described above in the section on the on-line discussion, during the week of November 6-10 each student will report on her or his project and comment on the project of at least one other student. The date on which students must submit the final version of their project will be determined at each institution. This project will account for twenty percent of the final grade.

**Examinations:** As noted on the accompanying schedule, there will be three hourly examinations during the course of the semester. Each will cover the readings from one of the three authors we will study and will include three sections. The first will address the features of the Latin

language as reflected in the readings. The second will cover the information and ideas presented in the lectures, and the final section will be based on the study questions and ideas that students develop in the on-line discussion. Each of the hourly examinations will account for fifteen percent of the final grade.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on the following components:

Class preparation and work in tutorial:	20%
Participation in the on-line discussion:	20%
Project:	15%
First hourly exam:	15%
Second hourly exam:	15%
Third hourly exam:	15%

## Primary Readings

Seneca: *Epistulae morales* 5, 7, 11, 21, 47, 56

Lucan: *De bello civili* 1.1-227

Petronius: *Satyricon* 26-33, 44-49, 61-64.1, 71-78

## Schedule of Assignments and Events

### Week 1 (9/18-22)

Monday:	<u>On-line</u> <u>Lecture:</u> (1)	Miriam Carlisle Stewart (Washington and Lee), "Imperial Rome and Public Spectacle"
	<u>Reading:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 5, 7
Tuesday-	<u>On-line</u>	
Thursday:	<u>discussion:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 5, 7
Friday:	<u>Tutorial:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 47
	<u>Reading:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 47

*Notes:*

### Week 2 (9/25-29)

Monday:	<u>On-line</u> <u>Lecture:</u> (2)	David Sick (Rhodes College), "Freedom, Slavery, and Seneca"
	<u>Reading:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 47
Tuesday-	<u>On-line</u>	
Thursday:	<u>discussion:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 47
Friday:	<u>Tutorial:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 56
	<u>Reading:</u>	Seneca, <i>Epistulae morales</i> 56

Notes:

**Week 3 (10/2-6)**

Monday: On-line Scott Rubarth (Rollins College), "Philosophies of the Early Empire: Stocisim  
Lecture: (3) and Epicureanism"

Reading: Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 56

Tuesday- On-line Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 56  
Thursday: discussion:

Friday: Tutorial: Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 11, 21

Reading: Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 11, 21

Notes:

**Week 4 (10/9-13)**

Monday: On-line Brad Inwood (University of Toronto), "Seneca's Philosophy"  
Lecture: (4)

Reading: Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 11, 21

Tuesday- On-line Seneca, *Epistulae morales* 11, 21  
Thursday: discussion:

Wednesday: **First hourly examination**

Friday: Tutorial: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.1-66

Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.1-66

Notes:

**Week 5 (10/16-20)**

Monday: On-line Kenny Morrell (Rhodes College), "Historical Background on the Civil War"  
Lecture: (5)

Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.1-66

Tuesday- On-line Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.1-66  
Thursday: discussion:

Friday: Tutorial: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.67-157

Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.67-157

Notes:

**Week 6 (10/23-27)**

Monday: On-line Stephen Clark (Centenary College), "Aspects of De bello civili"  
Lecture: (6)

Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.67-157

Tuesday- On-line Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.67-157  
Thursday: discussion:

Friday: Tutorial: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.158-227

Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.158-227

Notes:

### Week 7 (10/30-11/3)

Monday: On-line Richard Tarrant (Harvard University), "Evolution of Latin Poetry from the  
Lecture: (7) Augustan Period to the Principate and Beyond"  
Reading: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.158-227

Tuesday- On-line  
Thursday: discussion: Lucan, *De bello civili* 1.158-227

### Wednesday: **Second hourly examination**

Friday: Tutorial: Petronius, *Satyricon* 26-33  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 26-33 (pp. 18-65 in Lawall's text)

*Notes:*

### Week 8 (11/6-10)

Monday: On-line Hal Haskell (Southwestern University), "The Geography of Petronius's  
Lecture: (8) *Satyricon*"  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 1.158-227

Tuesday- On-line  
Thursday: discussion: Reports and commentary on projects

Friday: Tutorial: Petronius, *Satyricon* 44-46  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 44-46 (pp. 78-109 in Lawall's text)

*Notes:*

### Week 9 (11/13-17)

Monday: On-line Catherine Connors (University of Washington), "Some Observations on the  
Lecture: (9) Form and Style of the *Satyricon*"  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 44-46

Tuesday- On-line  
Thursday: discussion: Petronius, *Satyricon* 26-33, 44-46

Friday: Tutorial: Petronius, *Satyricon* 47-49, 61-64.1  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 47-49, 61-64.1 (pp. 110-151 in Lawall's text)

*Notes:*

### Week 10 (11/20-24)

Monday: On-line  
Lecture: (10) David Sick (Rhodes College), "Roman Religion and Petronius's *Satyricon*"

Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 47-49, 61-64.1

### Wednesday- **Thanksgiving break**

Friday:

*Notes:*

### Week 11 (11/27-12/1)

Monday: On-line Anne Leen (Furman University), "The Latinity of Petronius' Satyricon"  
Lecture:  
(11)  
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* 71-78 (pp. 153-205 in Lawall's text)

Tuesday- On-line Petronius, *Satyricon* 71-78  
Thursday: discussion:

Friday: Tutorial: Petronius, *Satyricon* 71-78

*Notes:*

## Week 12 (12/4-12/8)

Monday: **Third hourly examination**

## Editions

Seneca: L. Annaeus Seneca, *Moral epistles*, edited by Anna Lydia Motto (Chico: Scholars Press, 1985).  
[selections in a course packet]

L. Annaeus Seneca, *Select Letters of Seneca*, edited by Walter C. Summers (London: Bristol Classical Press, 1983). (ISBN: 0862921201) [selections in a course packet]

Lucan: *M. Annaei Lucani de Bello Civili Liber I*, edited by R. J. Getty (London: Bristol Classical Press, 1982). (ISBN: 1853993573)

Petronius: *Selections from the Satyricon*, edited by Gilbert Lawall (Wauconda: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc., 1995). (ISBN: 0-96516-288-3)