

Fall Semester 2007
TR 10:50-12:05
100 Knight Hall
Office Hours: W 2-3, TR 1:30-2:30,
and by appointment

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LAT 330.001: Philosophical Texts

This semester we will examine the ideas of the two leading philosophical schools in ancient Rome—Stoicism and Epicureanism. Our main authors will be Cicero, Seneca, and Lucretius. While the former two emphasize virtue and duty in an individual's dealings with fellow human beings and the gods, the latter attempts to free the Romans' minds from superstition. In addition to these philosophical studies, we will complete a review of Latin grammar and strengthen our ability to translate original texts, both prose and poetry.

Texts and materials

Bonnie A. Catto. *Lucretius: Selections from De Rerum Natura*. Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 1998.

Sally Davis and Gilbert Lawall. *Cicero's Somnium Scipionis – The Dream of Scipio*. White Plains, NY: Longman, 1988.

Walter C. Summers. *Select Letters of Seneca*. London: Bristol Classical Press, 1996.

Lucretius. *On the Nature of the Universe*. Trans. R.E. Latham. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Cicero. *The Republic and The Laws*. Trans. Niall Rudd. New York: Oxford, 1998.

Seneca. *Letters from a Stoic*. Trans. Robin Campbell. New York: Penguin, 1969.

Charles E. Bennett. *New Latin Grammar*. Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 2001. [This grammar is available on-line at http://www.textkit.com/files/CEB_A_Latin_Grammar.pdf].

Charlton T. Lewis. *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. (Recommended)

Objectives

Students at the advanced level of Latin study are expected to meet all the objectives described for the elementary and intermediate levels of instruction (see the departmental Web site: www.mercer.edu/fl/policies.html), with the following advancements:

- Advanced competency in grammar
- Increased range of vocabulary (including poetic and technical terms)
- Ability to read and understand original Latin texts (both in prose and verse)
- Expertise in a variety of Latin authors and genres (in LAT 330 the philosophical texts of Lucretius, Cicero, and Seneca)

- Overview of the history of Roman literature
- Knowledge of common metrical patterns (in LAT 330 primarily Lucretius' dactylic hexameters)
- Fundamental knowledge of Latin stylistics (in LAT 330 the stylistics of the philosophical writings of Lucretius, Cicero, and Seneca)
- Ability to translate sentences into Latin and to compose simple texts in Latin

Instructional methodology

In this course, we will read selections from Lucretius' *De rerum natura*, Cicero's "Somnium Scipionis," and Seneca's *Epistulae morales* in the original Latin. We will use these texts to study the major ideas of Epicureanism and Stoicism. You will be asked to prepare a Latin passage for every class meeting. In class there will be ample opportunity for you to discuss your translation of the text and interpretation of the contents. You should keep a running list of new vocabulary and make yourself flashcards for memorization. We will put some emphasis on a cursory review of Latin grammar on the basis of the Bennett grammar. In addition to the Latin readings, you will be assigned more extensive passages in English translation. Periodically, you may be asked to do some background reading and discuss your thoughts with the class.

Evaluation

Three tests	25 %
Quizzes	10 %
Classroom performance	20 %
Written homework assignments	7.5 %
Midterm presentation and essay on Greco-Roman culture	10 %
Oral presentation	7.5 %
Term paper	20 %

There will be one written test on each of our three authors--Lucretius, Cicero, and Seneca. The quizzes will always be announced in the preceding class meeting and are predominantly on vocabulary and grammar.

Three times this semester you will receive a grade for your performance in the classroom. Each grade reflects your work and contributions over a number of weeks. Provisional dates are the end of the fourth week, the week after fall break, and the final week (see tentative class schedule). Students succeeding in this area will be prepared for every class (translations, vocabulary, grammar, readings), make meaningful contributions to our class activities (plenary as well as group work), and ask relevant questions.

Written homework will be assigned on a regular basis and in various fashions, such as grammar exercises, short essays, translations, scansions, and Latin compositions.

Before midterm I will ask you to choose a relevant topic from Greco-Roman culture and civilization for a brief in-class presentation and subsequent submission in the form of a three-to-five-page essay.

Toward the end of the term, you will select a topic from Roman philosophy and do extensive research. You will have the chance to present your ideas orally to the class and receive feedback. You will then produce a five-to-seven-page term paper (not counting title page and bibliography), following the MLA guidelines. You should quote at least two works of secondary literature. To avoid plagiarism, you must acknowledge all ideas that are not your own, no matter whether you quote your source verbatim, paraphrase, or summarize. The deadline for the paper is Thursday, December 6, 2007.

All assignments are due when indicated. Late submission of homework and make-up tests will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor for cases of duly documented personal or family emergency. In any event, five points will be taken off the score for every day past the deadline. There will be no extra credit work or rewrites.

After fall break I will ask each student in the class to come to a mandatory one-on-one conference to my office. We will try to fit as many of these *colloquia Latina* into our regular class hour as possible, but some of you may have to schedule the meeting later during the day. The purpose of this conference is to give you an assessment of your progress in the class and to plan ahead for the remainder of the semester. Please bring Tests 1 and 2 to the meeting. Of course, I strongly encourage every participant to come to talk to me frequently outside of class and this conference.

Students receiving failing grades during this course or students having trouble with any aspect of this class are encouraged to meet with me, either during regular office hours or by appointment.

Course policies

Prerequisite: LAT 251 or consent of instructor

Requirements: Meticulous preparation of class material
Regular and timely completion of homework assignments
Active participation

Attendance: You are expected to attend each class session and to contribute constructively to classroom activities. Should you miss more than three class sessions for any reason, one point will be deducted from your total average for each session missed. Under no circumstances will you receive a passing grade for this course if you miss more than fifty percent of the class meetings.

<u>Grading scale</u> :	90-100	A	70-75	C
	86-89	B+	66-69	D
	80-85	B	0-65	F
	76-79	C+		

Electronic submission rule: Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically to a professor are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by the professor. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. Faculty members are encouraged, but not required, to acknowledge receipt of the assignment.

Honor code: The honor code will be firmly followed. While you are encouraged to work and study together with other students or with tutors, all written work that you submit must be your own. Please refer to the *Lair* (student handbook; see at http://www.thezonelive.com/zone/02_SchoolStructure/GA_MercerUniversity/handbook.pdf) for details regarding violations of the honor system.

Accommodation of disability: Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. If you are not registered with Disability Services, the instructor will refer you to the Student Support Services office for consultation regarding documentation of your disability and eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/504. In order to receive accommodations, eligible students must provide each instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form from Disability Services. Students must return the completed and signed form to the Disability Services office on the third floor of the Connell Student Center. Students with a documented disability who do not wish to use accommodations are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services and complete a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information please contact Disability Services at 301-2778 or visit the website at http://www.mercer.edu/stu_support/swd.htm.

Cell phone usage: Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom, lab, or formal academic or performance event.

Tentative class schedule

August	21	T	Course introduction; Stoicism and Epicureanism
	23	R	Lucretius, overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 1
	24	F	Last day to drop the course
	28	T	Lucretius; overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 2
	30	R	Lucretius; overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 3
September	4	T	Lucretius; overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 4
	6	R	Lucretius; overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 5
	11	T	Lucretius; overview <i>De rerum natura</i> 6
	13	R	Lucretius; grade 1 for classroom performance

	18	T	Test 1 (Lucretius)
	20	R	Cicero
	25	T	Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 1
	27	R	Culture presentations; Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 2
October	2	T	Culture presentations; Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 3
	4	R	Culture presentations; Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 4
	9	T	[Fall Break]
	11	R	Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 5; grade 2 for classroom performance
	16	T	Cicero; overview <i>De re publica</i> 6
	18	R	Test 2 (Cicero)
	23	T	Seneca's death: Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> XV.60ff
	25	R	Seneca
	26	F	Last day of course withdrawal
	30	T	<i>Colloquia Latina</i> (student-teacher conferences)
November	1	R	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 2, 3, 5, 6
	6	T	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 7, 9
	8	R	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 12, 18, 26
	13	T	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 28, 33, 41
	15	R	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 47, 54, 56
	20	T	Seneca; overview <i>Epistulae morales</i> 88, 90, 91
	22	R	[Thanksgiving Break]
	27	T	Test 3 (Seneca)
	29	R	Student presentations
December	4	T	Student presentations
	6	R	Student presentations; review and conclusion; term paper due; grade 3 for classroom performance