

Spring Semester 2007  
TR 10:50-12:05  
210 Knight Hall  
Office Hours: MW 11-12, T 12:15-1:15,  
and by appointment

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## LAT 340.001: Vergil

In this course we will study the works of the arguably greatest Roman poet, Publius Vergilius Maro. While our focus will be on the *Aeneid*, Vergil's last work and Roman national epic, we will also read selected passages from the *Eclogues* (or *Bucolics*--a collection of ten hexameter poems on imaginary shepherds) and from the *Georgics* (a didactic poem in four books on farming and bee-keeping). In addition to these literary studies, you will complete a review of Latin grammar and strengthen your ability to translate original texts. You will also be exposed to a variety of topics from Roman history and civilization.

### Texts and materials

*Selections from Vergil's Aeneid Books I, IV, VI: Dido and Aeneas*. Ed. Jane Harriman Hall and Alexander G. McKay. White Plains, NY: Longman, 1988.

*Virgil: The Eclogues and Georgics*. Ed. R. Deryck Williams. London: Bristol Classical Press, 1996.

Virgil. *The Aeneid*. Trans. David West. New York: Penguin, 2003.

Virgil. *The Georgics*. Trans. L.P. Wilkinson. New York: Penguin, 1982.

Virgil. *The Eclogues*. Trans. Guy Lee. New York: Penguin, 1984.

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](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](http://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 340 the poetry of Vergil)

- Overview of the history of Roman literature
- Knowledge of common metrical patterns (in LAT 340 primarily dactylic hexameters)
- Fundamental knowledge of Latin stylistics (in LAT 340 the stylistics of Vergil's poetry)
- Ability to translate sentences into Latin and to compose simple texts in Latin

### **Instructional methodology**

In this course, we will read selections from Vergil's *Aeneid*, *Georgics*, and *Eclogues* in the original Latin. You will be asked to prepare a 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**

Two tests	25 %
Quizzes	10 %
Classroom performance	17.5 %
Written homework assignments	7.5 %
Midterm presentation and essay on Greco-Roman culture	7.5 %
Hexameter recitation	7.5 %
Oral presentation	7.5 %
Term paper	17.5 %

While the first written test will focus on the *Aeneid*, the second one will be on the *Georgics* and the *Eclogues*. 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 scansion, short essays, translations, grammar exercises, 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.

Each student will also be asked to memorize and recite a brief passage from one of Vergil's works. We will practice reading and delivering hexameters before venturing into a semi-public

performance: I am going to ask you to recite your passages in front of my LAT 112 class to give my beginning Latin students a taste of Latin poetry. I hope we can be creative and make this a memorable and stimulating experience for the lower-division students. The tentative date for our recitation is Friday, March 30, at 9 a.m.

Toward the end of the term, you will select a topic from Vergil's poetry 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 Tuesday, April 24, 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 spring 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 Test 1 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](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](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**

January	9	T	Course introduction; Suetonius, "Vita Vergili"
	11	R	Suetonius, "Vita Vergili"; overview <i>Aen.</i> 1
	12	F	Last day to drop the course
	16	T	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 2
	18	R	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 3
	23	T	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 4
	25	R	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 5
	30	T	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 6
February	1	R	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 7; <b>grade 1 for classroom performance</b>

	6	T	<i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 8
	8	R	Culture presentations; <i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 9
	13	T	Culture presentations; <i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 10
	15	R	Culture presentations; <i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 11
	20	T	Culture presentations; <i>Aeneid</i> ; overview <i>Aen.</i> 12
	22	R	<b>Test 1 (<i>Aeneid</i>)</b>
March	27	T	Culture presentations; <i>Georgics</i> ; overview <i>Georg.</i> 1
	1	R	Culture presentations; <i>Georgics</i> ; overview <i>Georg.</i> 2
	5-9		[Spring Break]
	13	T	<i>Georgics</i> ; overview <i>Georg.</i> 3
	15	R	<i>Georgics</i> ; overview <i>Georg.</i> 4; <b>grade 2 for classroom performance</b>
	20	T	<i>Georgics</i>
	22	R	<i>Colloquia Latina</i> (student-teacher conferences)
	23	F	Last day of course withdrawal
	27	T	<i>Eclogues</i> ; overview <i>Ecl.</i> 1-3
	29	R	Hexameter recitations in class; <i>Eclogues</i> ; overview <i>Ecl.</i> 4-6
	30	F	9:00 a.m.: Hexameter recitations in LAT 112 (KNT 100)
April	3	T	<i>Eclogues</i> ; overview <i>Ecl.</i> 7-10
	5	R	<b>Test 2 (<i>Eclogues</i> and <i>Georgics</i>)</b>
	10	T	Student presentations
	12	R	Student presentations
	17	T	Student presentations
	19	R	Student presentations
	24	T	Student presentations; review and conclusion; <b>term paper due; grade 3 for classroom performance</b>
	26	R	[no class]