LATIN 301          Petronius and the Age of Nero            Fall 2000

Instructor: Michael Barich (VAX username: BARICH)  
Office: Ascension 323 (PBX 5804)  
Office Hours: Tu F 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment

Texts

The following texts are required for this course and are available in the college bookstore:
Other assigned readings will be available in Olin Library or distributed in photocopy.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade for the course will be calculated on the following basis:
Seminar Presentation 15%  
Term Paper 30%  
Tests (2) 30%  
Classroom Work 25%

Final Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>97 and above</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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Guidelines for the Term Paper

The term paper is intended to give you the opportunity to explore in greater depth some aspect of the texts that you are reading in Latin. The specific topic that you select should be one that can be fruitfully explored by close reading of the author's original Latin. This means that your paper should include substantial detailed analysis of specific passages of Latin. At the same time this detail should be used to address some broader literary or historical question that you find of particular interest. You should express clearly in the first paragraphs of your paper the key questions you will address and how you will try to answer them. The body of your paper should present the relevant evidence and show how you think this evidence should be used.

The work of other scholars will suggest important questions to explore and will provide models for developing an argument; it will also be a necessary resource on certain technical points. As a student of Latin, however, you are already acquiring the most important technical expertise for someone who wants to learn about ancient Rome. Even where you have to rely on experts' judgment in certain specialized matters (e.g., metrics, paleography, or the raw data of an archaeological excavation), you should be prepared to question the inferences that scholars make from this evidence. Show clearly where you use the ideas of others; this is a basic principle of honest scholarship and emphasizes your own contribution. Please read the Student Handbook for specific guidelines, and consult the instructor if you have any further questions about quotations, footnotes or other matters of documentation.

The paper topic will be developed and approved in discussion with the instructor. Early consultation will help you approach your subject efficiently and save you work in the end. A first draft of your paper must be submitted by Friday, November 17. Experience has shown that better papers (and better grades) result from careful revision in response to comments of the instructor. A length of about ten pages is suggested; twelve pages is the maximum. The final draft will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19. It is strongly recommended that you keep an extra copy of your paper in case of theft by gremlins.

Guidelines for the Seminar Presentation

The seminar presentation is a prepared talk of not more than twenty minutes. It should elucidate in a focused and specific way a particular issue relevant to Petronius, whether literary, historical, archaeological, or, most likely, some combination of these. Close reading of some part of Petronius' Latin should be included. The presentation will provide an opportunity to analyze a problem thoroughly and communicate ideas orally, both of which are important life skills.
Deadlines and Attendance

If you miss any deadline for whatever reason, you must obtain a dean's excuse before taking a makeup test or getting an extension on the paper. No makeup test will be given for an unexcused absence. Papers submitted late without an extension will be penalized two points on a scale of one hundred for each day the paper is late. All work for the semester must be submitted by the last day of exams. If you get an incomplete for the course, the late penalty will be assessed up to the date that the incomplete was granted. Your regular attendance and active participation in class discussion are vital to the success of this course. Two unexcused absences from class are allowed without a penalty (excluding exam days); each additional unexcused absence will result in the reduction of your semester grade by one point on a scale of one hundred.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that will affect your participation in this class, please contact the instructor and also inform Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services at PBX 5453 or via e-mail at SALVAE.

Bibliography

It is strongly recommended that you use the Oxford Latin Dictionary (OLD), which is available in Olin Library. Its clear arrangement and specific quotations from ancient Latin texts will help you progress in your knowledge of the language. You will often find quoted there the exact passage that you are translating. An older but still useful dictionary is Lewis and Short (1872), which was the standard before OLD. There is an online version of Lewis and Short; you can access it quickly through the link on the Kenyon Classics Department homepage or through the homepage for Latin 301. There are a number of good reference grammars available. I would especially recommend Gildersleeve and Lodge, Latin Grammar (third edition: London, 1895, numerous reprints) and Allen and Greenough, A New Latin Grammar, (Boston, 1903, numerous reprints).


The Latin 301 homepage has links to an electronic version of Allen and Greenough, a Latin text of Petronius, bibliographies, and other useful resources.
Books on Petronius and the Satyricon in Olin Library:

C. Connors, Petronius the Poet (Cambridge, 1998).
G. Conte, The Hidden Author: An Interpretation of Petronius' Satyricon, translated from the Italian by E. Fantham (Berkeley, 1996).
A. Scobie, Aspects of the Ancient Romance and its Heritage (Hain, 1969).
N. W. Slater, Reading Petronius (Baltimore, 1990).
J. P. Sullivan, The Satyricon of Petronius: A Literary Study (Bloomington IN, 1968).


The bibliography for Tacitus is vast. The following are noteworthy and available in Olin:

H. Furneaux. The Annals of Tacitus. 2 volumes (Oxford, 1896-1907). This is still a useful Latin text and commentary. The introductions contain detailed references to the text and exemplify the best in "old-fashioned" scholarship.
R. Syme, Tacitus, 2 volumes, (Oxford, 1958). A classic study by a legendary scholar with a Tacitean writing style. Syme can squeeze amazing amounts of information out of meager bits of evidence; his forte is prosopography, the collection and analysis of biographical information in ancient sources about specific named individuals.
The reign of **Nero** has also been popular with scholars. The following books are in Olin:


M. T. Griffin, *Nero: The End of a Dynasty* (New Haven 1985),


**Schedule of Readings and Deadlines**

Tu, August 29: Walsh, "Introduction". pp. xiii-xix and pp. 1-19 (sections 1-26) of his translation.

F, September 1 Smith, "Introduction," pp. xi-xxiv; Cena 26.7 - 29.9.

Tu, September 5: Cena 30.1 - 33.2

F, September 8: Cena 33.3 - 35.6

Tu, September 12: Cena 35.7 - 38.16

F, September 15 Cena 39.1 - 41.8

Tu, September 19: Cena 41.9 - 44.18

F, September 22: Cena 45.1 - 46.8

Tu, September 26: Cena 47.1 - 49.10

F, September 29: Cena 50.1 - 53.10

Tu, October 3: FIRST TEST

F, October 6: Cena 53.11 - 56.6

Tu, October 10: NO CLASS -- FALL BREAK

F, October 13: Cena 56.7 - 58.7

Tu, October 17: Cena 58.8 - 61.5
F, October 20: Cena 61.6 - 64.1
Tu, October 24: Cena 64.2 - 66.7
F, October 27: Cena 67.1 - 69.5
Tu, October 31: Cena 69.6 - 71.12
F, November 3: Cena 72.1 - 74.5
Tu, November 7: Cena 74.6 - 76.10
F, November 10: Cena 76.11 - 78.8
Tu, November 14: SECOND TEST
F, November 17: Satyrca, pp. 92-125 and selection in Latin
FIRST DRAFT OF TERM PAPER DUE
*** THANKSGIVING VACATION ***
Tu, November 28: Satyrca, pp.126-140 and selection in Latin
F, December 1: Satyrca, pp. 141-160 and selection in Latin
Tu, December 5: Tacitus, Annales 12. 65-69
F, December 8: Tacitus, Annales 13. 1-5
Tu, December 12: Seneca, Apocolocyntosis (read all in English translation and selections in Latin)
Tu, December 19: FINAL DRAFT OF TERM PAPER DUE AT 4:30 P.M.