

LNW 2560: Readings in Latin Literature

The Poet and the Politicians: Power and Libertas in the Late Roman Republic through Texts by Catullus, Cicero and Caesar

Time and Location

M W F period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)

Contact Information

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Office hours: F 9:30-11:30 and by appointment

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137 Dauer Hall

Course objectives and goals

This course will offer an overview of the fascinating Late Republic and Civil Wars period through the personal relationships of Cicero, Caesar and Catullus, three exceptional writers and public figures. How does a poet address politicians and rulers? How do rulers react to criticism? Through the concept of *libertas* which translates as freedom from slavery, political freedom but also freedom of speech pushed to the point of insulting bluntness, we will explore the political and military history of this troubled era as well as its intellectual debates and interpersonal relationships.

The core of the class will be the direct reading and translation of selected passages of prose and poetry. Through an in-depth study of the texts we will work to advance your skills in reading, translating and interpreting, in order to prepare you for further studies in Latin language, literature and civilization. Your analysis of *libertas* and of its various antagonists will also bring about new perspectives on present-day debates and burning issues.

Textbooks

- M. Balme – J. Morwood, *Oxford Latin Reader*, Oxford 1997 [**required**]
- H. Allen – J. B. Greenough, *New Latin Grammar* (any edition) [**optional**]
- C. Traupman – *New College Latin & English Dictionary* [**optional**]

Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1	Aug. 21, 23	Introduction: who were Cicero, Caesar & Catullus?
Week 2	Aug. 26, 28, 30	Catullus: sexual freedom or poetic license?
Week 3	Sept. 4, 6	The Clodia affairs in Catullus and Cicero; Quiz 1
Week 4	Sept. 9, 11, 13	Freedom of speech and obscenity in poetry (Catullus; Horace, <i>Satires</i> , I.4)
Week 5	Sept. 16, 18, 20	Caesar and free speech: visions of the Gallic War in Catullus, Cicero and Caesar
Week 6	Sept. 23, 25, 27	Quiz 2 ; Caesar, <i>Gallic War</i>

Week 7	Sept. 30, Oct. 2	The Civil war: a war for freedom or for personal power? Caesar, <i>Civil War</i>
Week 8	Oct. 7, 9, 11	Quiz 3 ; Review; Sight translation exercise
Week 9	Oct. 14, 16, 18	Midterm exam ; Review of Midterm exam; Virgil
Week 10	Oct. 21, 23, 25	Cicero's letters during the Civil War
Week 11	Oct. 28, 30, Nov. 1	Quiz 4 ; Cicero's letters during the Civil War
Week 12	Nov. 4, 6, 8	Political freedom: <i>libertas, licentia & tyrannis</i> Cicero, <i>De Republica</i>
Week 13	Nov. 13, 15	Quiz 5 ; Livy, Cicero's assassination
Week 14	Nov. 18, 20, 22	Cicero, Caesar and Catullus' thoughts on writing
Week 15	Nov. 25	Quiz 6
Week 16	Dec. 2, 4	Review; exercises; final reflections on <i>libertas</i>

Course requirements and grades

Students will be expected to participate actively in class, and especially to translate and discuss texts voluntarily, as well as join in partner or group activities. In this regard, it is necessary to read and translate the assigned texts prior to come to class. You will also need to review Latin grammar and learn new vocabulary regularly. In order to foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum.

Your grades will be based, first of all, on two exams (midterm and final). In addition, 6 quizzes will be administered during the course (you may drop your lowest quiz). The quizzes and exams will include vocabulary, grammar, translation and commentary. There will also be one oral presentation.

- Midterm exam (Oct. 14) = 20 %
- 6 quizzes = 25 %
- Oral presentation = 15 %
- Attendance and participation = 10%
- Final exam (Dec. 12, 12:30 - 2:30 PM) = 30 %

Class attendance and make-up works

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Make-up examinations are rarely given and only for extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, such as a grave illness. You must notify me in advance if possible and at the latest within 24 hours of a missed exam in order to arrange a makeup. I must have written documentation for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test.

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory.

More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized by five points for each subsequent unexcused absence.

Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/3 of an absence.

ADA requirements

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must

be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Grading scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	below 60

Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Critical dates for quizzes and exams

- September 6: Quiz 1
- September 23: Quiz 2
- October 7: Quiz 3
- October 14: Midterm exam
- October 28: Quiz 4
- November 13: Quiz 5
- November 25: Quiz 6
- December 10: Final exam

Honesty policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>