

# HCL 410 Letteratura Latina in Traduzione (Latin Literature in Translation)

## Spring 2010

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Tue. 10.00 – 12:45 a.m.

Office hours: by appointment

**Credit 3 units**

Extra Fees: 15 Euro

Prof. Jacopo Berti

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### **1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course to Latin Literature which has as principal theme the explanation of the relationship between the mutation of historical events and the mutation of the classical ideas of the Roman Literature. The concept of “Roman decadence” is then explored by analyzing social, historical, psychological, literary and religious aspects in the texts.

The course will deal mainly with literary works of the ancient Romans in translation, focusing on major figures of that time, from the second century B.C. to the fourth century A.D (to be read in translation).

Classes will be divided into four parts: the first part will be dedicated on Latin theater, the second part on Latin philosophy and history, the third part on love in every aspect and the fourth and final part on religion.

### **2. OBJECTIVE**

The aim of the course is to give the students the historical, cultural and critical instruments that are necessary to analyze the literary styles that have typified Latin literature from the first centuries to the end of the Roman Empire and to understand its characteristics.

### **3. PRE-REQUISITES - REQUIREMENTS**

Beginners will find this class appropriate as an initial approach to the Latin literature in translation.

**The class is in Italian**, but the readings and the course pack and exams will be in English to help students to understand and to appreciate better the authors.

### **4. METHOD**

The teacher will introduce the topic of the session that will be followed by the related readings and by a debate about the readings and in general about the subjects analysed.

Audio and visual aids will be used when possible.

### **5. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

For a better performance, a good attendance and participation at assignments is recommended. In particular, reading one's textbooks as a regular home assignment is mandatory to develop one's knowledge appropriately.

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

**Participation:** Continuous lateness as well as leaving the class for long breaks without your instructor's permission definitely influences the evaluation of your participation. **It is important that students come to class on time. Three delays/early departures will be considered one absence.** A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended. During lectures, students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell-phones, Ipod, Blackberry etc.). Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor. **Note-taking is mandatory.** Eating is NOT allowed in class. Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.

## **6. TESTS - ASSIGNMENTS**

During the semester students will be evaluated through various assignments such as individual reading, assignments discussed afterwards in class, an oral presentation, one midterm and a final exam.

Oral Presentation: lasts approx. 20 minutes and deals with the historical context of the works read in class. It should be educational and interesting for the other students. You are asked to use photos, post cards, music, and films in your presentation. Simple reading from notes will not be accepted. Students shall bring to class short summaries of their oral presentations and the other students are responsible for keeping and studying them because they will be part of the exams. **You are expected to have completed the day's readings prior to coming to class and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Always bring the texts we will be discussing to class.**

## **7. EVALUATION-GRADING SYSTEM**

10% attendance

30% mid-term test

30% final test

20% oral presentation

10% class contribution and effort

**A** = 100 - 93=,    **A-** = 92 - 90 ,    **B+** =89 - 87 ,    **B** = 86 - 83 ,    **B-** = 82 - 80 ,  
**C+** = 79 - 77 ,    **C** = 76 - 73=,    **C-** = 72 - 70=,    **D** = 69 - 60 ,    **F** = 59 - 0

## **8. TEXTBOOK-FURTHER READINGS-SOURCES**

### **Required readings:**

A mandatory **Course pack** (15 Euro) must be purchased at MA.BE Copisteria, in Via Niccolini 3A. Further hand-outs will be given by the teacher when necessary.

### **Further readings:**

the following works represent a valid bibliography for all class sessions and interesting optional sources for your study:

### **Sources:**

Sources for studying and making assignments are your **booklets, class notes and hand-outs**

For access to a larger research lending library please refer to the **Harold Acton Library of the British Institute** of Florence, in the Palazzo Lanfredini, Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10am – 6.30 pm.

## **9. EXTRA FEES**

The preparing of your oral presentation might require some individual visit to a library, or the purchase of a book or a record the cost of which depends on the student's necessities and cannot be calculated in advance.

## **10. EXAMS**

- Both mid-term and final tests (in English) are questionnaires (short essays questions) based on the notes taken during the sessions and on the readings in the text books.
- **Exam dates cannot be changed.**

## **11. LESSONS**

23 Feb: Introduction to the course: Roman literary culture, the beginnings (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 1-3)

2 Mar: Plautus and the theatre: The haunted house (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 4-9)  
Terentius and the other face of theatre: "the girl from Andria" (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 10-15)

9 Mar: Lucretius and Epicureism "De rerum natura" (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp.16-21)

16 Mar: Cicero speeches "Pro Caelio" (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 30-34) Cicero philosophy (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 35-40)

23 Mar: Caesar and the history (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 22-25) Sallust and history from a different perspective (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 26-29)

30 Mar: Midterm Exam

### Break

13 Apr: Catullus: what was love for a Roman? (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 41-43)

20 Apr: Vergil and the empire (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 70-94) Virgil Aeneid (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 94-110)

27 Apr: Horace and his low profile (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 44-53) Ovid and his stories (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 54-55)

4 May: Petronius and the Roman decadence (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 60-62)

11 May: Martial and Juvenal and the Roman wit (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 63-67)

18 May: Seneca Medea (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 56-60)

24 - 27 May: Final Exam – TO BE ANNOUNCED