



LATN 3001 Age of Cicero (TTh 12:30-1:45)

<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/>

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Fall 2022 Office Hours: TTh 8:30-9:30, 1:45-3:15, and by appt.

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Purpose: To develop an advanced reading proficiency in “golden” Latin poetry and prose, and to become familiar with civilization in the later Roman Republic (133-43 BC).

To that end, we will read selections from the major authors of the period, Sallust, Caesar, Lucretius, and Cicero. The selections are meant to introduce the most influential works of republican prose and poetry. Sallust was a lieutenant of Caesar and opponent of the senatorial oligarchy who was writing history a) to show the corruption of the senate and the decline of Roman morality and b) to defend Caesar’s legacy and discredit Cicero’s after their murders. Caesar’s *Gallic Wars* is a masterpiece among military memoirs, with a style that reflects his military leadership (inspiring, efficient, irresistible). Lucretius’ *De rerum natura* is a Roman interpretation of the Pre-Socratic Greek tradition of writing philosophy in hexameter poetry (like Epic). Lucretius made innovations in the hexameter that paved the way for Vergil, and presented the hedonism of Epicurus to Romans so as to suggest the power of a life without beliefs about the gods, the afterlife or hell, without political opinions, passions, or fears. Together with Cicero, they were the two most influential authors of ancient philosophy until the Renaissance.

In his *De Finibus* (*On ends*) book III, Cicero provides an outline of Stoic ethics that is nearly the opposite of Epicureanism (treated in *Fin.* I-II): it explains the Stoic derivation of virtue from nature, defined as doing one’s duty and working to perfect one’s appropriate acts to the model of the divine. The Stoics argue for political engagement, the presence of the divine in all things, and the immortality of the soul. Though the term ‘Stoicism’ has been coopted and corrupted by a host of modern receptions (Star Trek’s Spock; the productions of David Mamet – plays, ‘the Unit’, ‘The Edge’; Ayn Rand’s derivative philosophy; a 40,000 strong FB page on virtuous living; and even a modern school of psychotherapy), it is a very important school of thought for understanding the history of theology, the American Founding Fathers, the idea of the creator as a divine artist, and the natural law.

The last work we will read is from Cicero’s *De re publica*, his imitation of Plato’s *Republic*. For all of Cicero’s reading and admiration of Stoic doctrine, he was a member of the Academic school of Plato, though some assimilation had taken place between the schools during his lifetime. Cicero had studied with Antiochus of Ascalon, an Academic who inaugurated a new phase (Middle Platonism) by his embrace of Stoic and Aristotelian doctrines as being consistent with Stoicism. The conclusion of Cicero’s *De re publica* is his ‘Dream of Scipio’ in which Cicero interprets the imagery of Plato’s Myth of Er according to the Roman conception of ‘astral immortality’ – that the virtuous, after death, enjoy an apotheosis to heaven and become stars in the Milky Way. We get our idea of ‘movie-stars’ and the idea that kings deserve imagery of the sun, moon, and stars, as if they were gods, from Cicero’s translation of the Stoic conception that virtue merits immortality, though it was an idea that originated in Plato’s ‘Myth of Er’ (also a dream) at the end of his *Republic*.

A midterm, a presentation on a scholarly article related to your paper topic, and paper of 6-8 pages are required. The presentation must be about an article published in a scholarly journal. I recommend using JSTOR to find one, and I’ll be glad to help. The paper must include a close reading of a Latin passage from one of our authors.

Syllabus:

- Week 1-2 109-106 BC. The war of Rome against Jugurtha, King of Numidia and the rise of Marius, the *novus homo*: Sallust, *Bellum Jugurthinum* 6, 8, 64, 73, 111-114. (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/Ch2.pdf>)
- Weeks 3-5 63BC The debate over the fate of the Catilinarian conspirators: Sallust, *Coniuratio Catilinae* 50-51.8, 51.16-23, 51.28-31, 51.43-52.1, 52.13-26, 52.33-53.1, 54. (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/Ch7.pdf>)
- Week 6-7 58-52BC. Caesar's account of the Druids, *De Bello Gallico* 6.13-14, 16, 19. Caesar's Campaigns in Gaul; Invasion of Britain, 4.24-26, 28-31. (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/Ch9.pdf>). If time permits, we may do more from the Dickinson online commentary (<http://dcc.dickinson.edu/caesar/caesar-introduction>).

Thur. Oct. 6 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

- Weeks 8-10 Lucretius (99-55 BC) *De rerum Natura* (edited by Cicero?) 1.1-30, 1.62-79, 1.936-50, 2.14-23, 2.80-94, 2.114-22, 216-24, 3.830-69, 4.379-386, 5.953-72, 988-92, 1011-1024, 6.1138-62. (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/Ch10.pdf>)
- Weeks 11-13 Roman Stoicism. Cicero, *De Finibus* 3.16-18, 20-25, 39, 41-45, 58, 62-69. In place of a commentary, use Alpheios (<https://latin.packhum.org/loc/474/48/0#62>)
- Weeks 13-14 'The Dream of Scipio' 51BC. Cicero publishes *De re publica*, his philosophical *Republic*. His ideal of statesmanship and astral immortality, ending with "Somnium Scipionis" 6.13-17. (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/Ch13.pdf>)

11/29-12/1 ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS

Mon. Dec. 5 PAPER DUE

Textbooks:

Recommended: Elementary Latin Dictionary, ed. C.T. Lewis (Oxford UP) 978-0199102051 (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0060>)

Links:

- Alpheios Reader plugin. (<https://alpheios.net/>)
- JSTOR (<https://www.lib.ecu.edu/databases/go/255>)
- Pronunciation and Accent (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn1001/accent.pdf>)
- Map of Roman Italy (http://awmc.unc.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/rve_Back.pdf)
- Plan of central Rome (http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd/rome_athens_imperial_plans.jpg)
- The Cicero Homepage (<http://sites.la.utexas.edu/cicero/>)
- Wikipedia: Catiline (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catiline>)
- Bio of Cicero (<https://goo.gl/d7pZUt>)
- Timeline of events in the life of Cicero (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3001/timetable.htm>)
- The Cursus Honorum (<http://www.livius.org/articles/concept/cursus-honorum/>)
- Cicero's house on the Palatine Hill (<https://goo.gl/H7pSK9>)
- Images of the Roman Forum (<https://goo.gl/vqLmvd>)
- Lyric Meters (<http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/latn3002/meters.pdf>)

Grading:

Midterm	30%	Scale: A 93-100, A- 90-92
Paper	30%	B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82
Article presentation	10%	C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72
Class participation, translation	30%	D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62, F 0-59

Further Reading:

Fuhrmann, Manfred, 1992. Cicero and the Roman Republic (Blackwell: Oxford) DG260.C5F8413 1992
Dio Cassius Cocceianus, Dio's Roman History, vols. 2-6, PA 3947 A2 1954 v.2-6
Appian, Appian's Roman History, vols.3-4, PA 3873 A2 1912 v.3-4

Reference Resources:

<u>Oxford Classical Dictionary</u>	Ref DE 5 O9 1996
<u>The Cambridge Ancient History</u>	Ref D 57 C252 (1982) v.9-10
Smith, <u>Dictionary of Greek & Roman Bio & Myth</u>	Ref DE 5 S75 1967

Bibliography:

Donkin, E. H. 1916. M. Tullii Ciceronis Pro Sexto Roscio Amerino. Oratio Pro Iudices. (New York: McMillan, repr. Bristol 1987).

Scullard, H. H. 1982⁵. From the Gracchi to Nero. A History of Rome from 133 B.C. to A.D. 68 (New York: Routledge).

Lewis, Naphtali and Meyer Reinhold edd. 1951. Roman Civilization. Sourcebook I: The Republic (New York: U. Columbia Press).

Bailey, Cyril. 1926. The Mind of Rome. (Oxford).

Long, A. A. and D. N. Sedley. 1987. The Hellenistic Philosophers. Vol. I. Translations of the Principle Sources with Philosophical Commentary. (New York: Cambridge).

Rackham, H. 1931². Cicero. De Finibus Bonorum et Malorum. Loeb Classical Library. (Cambridge Mass.: Harvard U. Press).

Stuart, George. 1905. Sallust's Catiline and Jurgurthine War. Revised by Francis H. Lee. (Hinds, Noble & Eldredge)

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