



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

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

Prof. John Stevens
Classical Studies, Dept. Foreign Languages & Literatures
Fall 2022 Office Hours: TTh 10-11, 1:45-3:15, and by appt.

Ragsdale 133
stevensj@ecu.edu
(252) 328-6056

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, Lucretius, and Cicero. The selections are meant to introduce influential philosophical works of republican prose and poetry. 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.

We will read from Cicero's *De re publica*, his imitation of Plato's *Republic* and response to Lucretius. In book 1, Cicero provides the Classical definitions of a republic and of tyranny. At the time of its writing (52 BC), the first triumvirate was unraveling in Rome. Crassus died in 53 BC and Pompey and Caesar were coming into open conflict, which would plunge Rome into civil war in 49-48 BC. Cicero indicates in one of his letters that he envisions Pompey as a champion of republicanism (rule by the senate) and Caesar as opposed to it, threatening tyranny (law-flouting / extra-constitutional rule by one man). 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*.

The last work we will read is his *De Finibus (On ends)* book III, where 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; David Mamet's 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.

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:

Weeks 1-4 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 5-7 Cicero, *De re publica* Book 1.1, 7, 9, 39-43, 48-49, 52. Book 2.4, 15-16, 23, 39, 50, 57. Book 3.33, 44-45 (<https://latin.packhum.org/loc/474/43/0#0>)

Thur. Oct. 3 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Weeks 8-11 Cicero, *De re publica* Book 6.9-29 ("Dream of Scipio"; Text and Commentary in Canvas)

Weeks 11-14 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>)

11/26 ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS

Mon. Dec. 9 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/>)
- 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/vgLMvd>)
- Dactylic Hexameter (<https://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/LATN2004/hexameter.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:

Oxford Classical Dictionary

The Cambridge Ancient History

Ref DE 5 O9 1996

Ref D 57 C252 (1982) v.9-10

Bibliography:

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).

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