



Fall 2020 TTh 12:30-2:45 by WebEx

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Fall 2020 Contact: after class by WebEx, or by appt. and email

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Because of the pandemic, we are meeting on a block schedule 8/11-9/28 with double length classes. We will meet by videoconference via WebEx on Tuesday and Thursday, from 12:30 to 2:45 pm. The remaining 16% of required contact hours will be allocated for research toward completion of a major presentation and research paper. While you are researching your topics, I will be available to answer questions and help. To be successful in this course, students will need access to a computer with reliable internet access sufficient for videoconferencing. My office hours will be after class (it may be easiest just to continue the WebEx session after the others have left) or by appointment via phone or WebEx. I check email every couple hours and will usually get back to you quickly.

Purpose:

1. To acquire knowledge of Silver Latin Literature and the Second Sophistic. In this course, we will read and study Latin literature from the reign of Nero (54-68AD) in the period known as Silver Latin (usually ending with the death of Trajan in 117 AD) to the second sophistic in the reign of the other 'good emperors' (Hadrian 117-138, Antoninus Pius 138-161, Marcus Aurelius 161-80).
2. Research methodology: to learn how to add to our body of knowledge about Latin Literature through the literary practices of close reading, identification and analysis of key passages, and an attitude of critical questioning about texts. Use of authoritative sources for accessing scholarly articles on classical topics.
3. Application of knowledge: to learn how Latin literature creates connections among the humanities disciplines of literature, philosophy, myth and religion, political philosophy to suggest approaches to questions such as how we should live, govern ourselves, and conceive of problems like virtue and death.

Background: The Silver Latin style is characterized by increased compression from the golden syntax (more frequent use of adjectives as noun-heads of ablatives, more cryptic uses of participles and ablative absolutes), a more rhetorical style (the practice of rhetoric in courts of law in the republic had been replaced by the fact that the emperor was now law; thus rhetoric supposedly became "an exercise" which aristocrats practiced like a game without the same consequence), and more dominated by personal themes without political reference (motivated by a desire not to threaten the emperor's rule). Much of the literature is characterized by extremes of introspection, emotionalism or psychological interest, and overt theatricality. In the era of Nero, however, we do see questions of political philosophy, the republic, and revolution arise, along with a heightened use of irony to obscure these themes from common view. We will begin with excerpts from Suetonius' *Life of Nero*, then from Lucan's *Civil War or Pharsalia* (*De bello civili / Bellum civile sive Pharsalia*). Then we will read some of the letters of Pliny the Younger, including his account of the eruption of Vesuvius, and we will finish with excerpts from the center (*katabasis*!) of the epic by Apuleius upon which Pinocchio is based: *The*

Metamorphosis, or as Augustine called it, *Golden Ass* (*Asinus Aureus*). The Silver Latin period properly ends with the accession of Hadrian who ushers in a new era of interest in Plato, and the period known as the "Second Sophistic". Thus we are trespassing a bit beyond the bounds of Silver Latin by reading the Platonic epic of Apuleius.

Gaius **Suetonius** Tranquillus (ca.75-120sAD) *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*. He says he was an *adolescens* 20 years after the death of Nero in 68. Roman historian, contemporary of Tacitus and Pliny the Younger, active in the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian (A.D. 98-138), his father was military tribune in the XIIIth legion, and he taught rhetoric and practiced law. His *Lives* from Caesar to Domitian cover some material not found in Tacitus. He became Hadrian's private secretary (*magister epistolarum*), and thus had access to the imperial archives, including transactions of the senate. The *Lives* are full of dubious anecdotes, which while making for poor history, give a good idea of how people talked about the Julio-Claudians under the 'good emperors' Trajan and Hadrian. He was a friend of Pliny the Younger, who took Suetonius with him while serving as governor of Bithynia, and commended him to Trajan, asking the emperor to let him inherit property, even though he was childless and ineligible. Hadrian's biographer, Aelius Spartianus, says Suetonius was fired as secretary because he and other members of the court were excessively familiar with the emperor's wife during Hadrian's absence in Britain. He is also author of *De viris illustribus*, *De grammaticis et rhetoricis*, and *De poetis*, and is thought to be the primary source for the later *Vita Virgilis*.

Marcus Annaeus **Lucanus** (39-65 AD), born in Corduba Spain, cousin of Seneca, reputedly author of 13 lost works (including an *Orpheus*, *De incendio urbis*, on the fire of 64, and *Laus Pisonis*), supposedly offended Nero by being too good, and the emperor put a publication ban on his works. It seems more likely that one of his works failed to obscure some criticism of Nero. So Lucan joined the conspiracy of Piso against Nero in 65 and was forced to commit suicide at 25. His *Bellum Civile* or *Pharsalia* concerns events of a century earlier, the battle for the Roman republic between Caesar and Pompey in 49-48BC. The style of his language is terse and difficult and his imagery is deeply affected by Stoicism's principle of sympatheia (that all things are interconnected by divine soul -- rocks, plants, the earth, our thoughts, the gods, and nature) so that thoughts and feelings may affect nature or history or politics. It was a much more popular work in the Renaissance, and is the chief classical influence upon Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus (**Pliny the Younger**, 61-112AD), *Letters*. Nephew of Gaius Plinius Secundus (Pliny the Elder, who wrote the *Natural History*); born on Lake Como, but was young when his father Lucius Caecilius Cilo died, after which he and his mother went to live with her brother Pliny the Elder in Rome. Lucius Verginius Rufus was his tutor, and he studied rhetoric with Quintilian. The elder Pliny adopted him, and left his estate to him when he died trying to rescue victims in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79, when the younger was 18. He became friends with Suetonius, Martial and Tacitus. His career is one of the best documented examples of the *cursus honorum* under the empire: 81AD lawyer at the *centumviral* court and *tribunus militum* (staff officer) for *Legio III Gallica* in Syria; 80s enrolled as an *Equites* and member of the senate; 88 *Quaestor* on the imperial staff; 91 *Tribunus Plebis*; 93 *Praetor*; 94-96 *Praefectus aerarii militaris*; 98-100 *Praefectus aerarii Saturni* (state treasury); 100 *Consul suffectus* (completes a term when a consul dies in office); 103-104 *Augur* and *Propraetor* of Pontus; 104-106 *curator alvei Tiburis* (flooding); 104-107 Trajan's judicial council; and 110- death in ca 113, on an imperial commission to Bithynia et Pontus. Wrote something he was embarrassed to call a Greek tragedy at 14; after serving as consul suffectus, he wrote the *Panegyricus* thanking Trajan (like the *Res Gestae*, Cicero's works addressed to Pompey, or Seneca's *De clementia*, it was meant to illustrate the model of a good emperor - the mirror of the prince). His ten books of *Letters* (*Epistulae*) document imperial administration and give an impartial view of life at this time in a Ciceronian style. Besides his main estate in Umbria, he had villas at Laurentium (Aeneas' settlement), and two on the peninsula of lake Como now called *Bellagio*, one higher on a hill called *tragedia*, and a lower one by the shore called *comedia*.

Lucius **Apuleius**, (125-180 AD) from Roman N. Africa-- Madaurus in Numidia (now M'Daourouch in Algeria). A famous orator and Platonist, he is author of an *Apology*, a *Florida* (excerpted highlights of

rhetorical works), and works on Plato, including one on his *daimon*, *De deo Socratis*. His most famous work is the *Metamorphosis* or "Golden Ass," the centerpiece of which is a tale of the love of Cupid and Psyche (soul), an allegory on the role Plato assigned to *eros* in the soul's progress toward the divine. *Metamorphosis* also has some reference to Ovid's work. One of our tasks will be to identify what that connection might be. *The Golden Ass* is written in the form of a Greek novel or Milesian Tale, which has predecessors in Petronius' *Satyricon* and other travel literature. Like the "Road" movies of Hope and Crosby, this genre usually shows low characters motivated by low desires (hunger and lust) behaving badly and coming to no good, but turning out alright in the end. It has been the inspiration for any number of works, forming the background literary world of Augustine's *Confessions*, to some influence surely upon the *Canterbury Tales*, as well as being the allegorical model of Disney's *Pinocchio*. The centerpiece of Cupid and Psyche stands out, like a work of art within a work of art -- an *ekphrasis* with explanatory power for the entire work.

Texts:

- Suetonius *Life of Nero*. Online <https://latin.packhum.org/loc/1348/1/0#157>
- *A Lucan Reader, Selections from Civil War*, ed. Susanna Braund ISBN 9780865166615
- Selected Letters from Pliny the Younger's *Epistulae*, ed. Jacqueline Carlon: 9780199340613
- Apuleius' "Cupid and Psyche" ed. Purser. ISBN: 9781177801560
- Electronic versions: <https://latin.packhum.org/>

Recommended:

- C.T. Lewis, *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*. Scholar's Choice: 9781293979778
- Alpheios Reader plugin. <https://alpheios.net/>

Grading:

In class translation	40%
30 min Presentation	30%
Research paper 6-8 pages	30%

The paper should be a close reading of passages from one of our authors (Suetonius, Lucan, Pliny the Younger, Apuleius) which employs at least two scholarly articles as sources. The point of the paper will be to measure whether you can maintain your own narrative voice while bringing in the perspective of two authoritative sources, clearly demarcating what are your ideas from what are the ideas of others. Web sources are not acceptable. You should be using JSTOR or *L'Année Philologique* to identify articles in classical journals on your topic:

- <http://jproxy.lib.ecu.edu/login?url=http://www.jstor.org/jstor/>
- <https://www.lib.ecu.edu/databases/go/667>

The Presentation should be on one of the authors and texts we are NOT reading this semester. You should present a biography of the author, including his main works, their genre and importance. You should read the work, or a substantial portion of it in English, translate a passage of the Latin and walk us through it, pointing out something interesting about the passage - its style, its imitation of a previous model or perspective on history etc. Consult the following authoritative sources:

Brill's New Pauly, Encyclopedia of the Ancient World. Ref. DE5 .N4813 2002.
 Conte, Latin Literature: a History. Ref. PA 6008 .C6613 1994
 The Oxford Classical Dictionary. <http://tinyurl.com/y46e7y5b>

Your presentation should last 30 minutes and be about one of the authors of the Silver Latin age or second sophistic: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Latin#Authors_of_the_Silver_Age

The main Latin authors and texts you might consider (many important works from this period are in Greek) include:

- Gaius **Petronius** Arbiter (27-66AD), *Satyricon*
- Lucius Annaeus **Seneca** (4-65AD). *Tragedies, Letters, Dialogues*
- Decimus Junius **Juvenalis** (1st-2ndAD). *Satires*
- Marcus Valerius **Martialis** (38-102AD). *Epigrams*
- Gaius Cornelius **Tacitus** (56-117AD). *Histories, Annals, Germania, Agricola, Dialogus*
- Titus **Calpurnius Siculus** (age of Nero), *Eclogues*
- Gaius Plinius Secundus (**Pliny the Elder**, 23-79AD), *Natural History* (Encyclopedia)
- Publius Papinius **Statius** (45-96AD), *Silvae, Thebaid, Achilleid*
- **Aulus Gellius** (125-after 180AD), *Noctes Atticae*
- Marcus **Velleius Paterculus** (19-31AD), *Compendium of Roman History*
- Gaius **Valerius Flaccus** (-90AD), *Argonautica*
- Tiberius Catius **Silius Italicus** (25-101 AD), *Punica*
- Marcus Fabius **Quintilianus** (35-100AD), *Institutio Oratoria*
- **Persius** (34-62AD), *Satires*

Recommended topics:

- Tacitus *Annales* 15 on the Pisonian conspiracy, Parthian war, the great fire, and the death of Seneca
- Silius Italicus, *Punica* e.g. 13 on Scipio's descent to the underworld
- Petronius, *Cena Trimalchionis*, the centerpiece of *Satyricon*
- Statius, *Silvae* e.g., 1 (on the Equestrian statue of Domitian) and 2.7 (to Lucan's widow, Polla)
- Valerius Flaccus, *Argonautica* select an episode, try to compare with Vergil or Apollonius
- Senecan Stoicism, *Epistles* e.g., 13, 16, 73, 74

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY). Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina Student. **Cheating, plagiarism (claiming the work of another as your own, allowing another student to copy your work, or using information from the internet, books or articles without attribution) will at a minimum result in a 0 for the assignment and can result in failing the course or additional sanctions under the ECU Honor Code.**

Schedule of Assignments:

T Aug. 11	Intro. Sight read Suetonius' <i>Life of Nero</i> 7.1, 10.1-2, 12.1-2
Th. Aug. 13	Suetonius' <i>Life of Nero</i> , Read all in English. Prepare translation from Latin: A. 13.1-2 B. 21.2-3 C. 23.2 D. 25.1 E. 31.1-2 Sight-read: 34.2-4, 38.1-2, 49.1-2
T Aug. 18	Lucan, <i>Bellum Civile</i> Prepare: A. 1.1-23 B. 1.24-45 C. 1.67-89 D. 1.89-114 E. 1.115-135. Sight-read: 1.136-57, 1.183-212
Th Aug. 20	Lucan, <i>Bellum Civile</i> Prepare: A. 1.213-227 B. 1.486-504 C. 3.8-35 D. 3.399-421 E. 3.422-45 Sight-read: 6.624-53, 7.617-37

T Aug. 25	<p>Lucan, <i>Bellum Civile</i> Prepare: A. 7.647-70 B. 7.671-682, 728-40 C. 7.741-46, 760-80 D. 7.781-811 E. 8.542-71. Sight-read: 8.572-609.</p>
Th Aug. 27	<p>Lucan, <i>Bellum Civile</i> Prepare: A. 8.609-36 B. 8.663-88 C. 9.190-217 D. 961-79 E. 9.980-99 Discusssion. Presentation A</p>
T Sept. 1	<p>Pliny the Younger, <i>Epistulae</i> Read 2.17 in English (http://www.attalus.org/old/pliny2.html#17) Prepare: A. 1.9 B. 3.21, C. 4.8 D.4.11.4-9 E.4.19 (re future 3rd wife) Presentation B. If time, sight-read from 2.17</p>
Th Sept. 3	<p>Pliny the Younger, <i>Epistulae</i> Prepare: A. 6.16.1-7 B.6.16.8-13 C.6.16.14-22 D. 6.20.1-8 E. 6.20.9-15 Sight-read: 6.20.16-20 Presentation C</p>
T Sept. 8	<p>Pliny the Younger, <i>Epistulae</i> Prepare: A. 7.27.5-8 B. 7.27.9-14 C. 10.96.1-6 D. 10.96.7-10 E. 10.97 Discussion. Presentation D</p>
Th Sept. 10	<p>Apuleius, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> Prepare: A. 4.28 B. 4.29 C. 4.30 D. 4.31 E. 4.32 Presentation E. If time, sight-read: 4.33-35</p>
T Sept. 15	<p>Apuleius, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> Prepare: A. 5.1 B. 5.2-3 C. 5.4-5 D. 5.6 E. 5.7-8 Sight-read: 5.9-10</p>
Th Sept. 17	<p>Apuleius, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> Prepare: A. 5.11 B. 5.12-13 C. 5.14-15 D. 5.16-17 E. 5.18-19 Sight-read: 5.20-22</p>
T Sept. 22	<p>Apuleius, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> Prepare: A. 5.23-24 B. 5.25 C. 5.26 D. 5.27-28p68 E. 5.28p69-5.29 Sight-read: 5.30-31</p>
Th Sept. 24	<p>Apuleius, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> Prepare: A. 6.1-2p80 B. 6.2p81-6.3 C. 6.4-5 D. 6.6-7 E. 6.8-9p91 Sight-read: 6.9p92-</p>
T Sept. 29	Final Papers due