CLAS 221-500: Intermediate Latin I

Fall 2012  TR 12:45-2:00  PETR 106

Instructor: C. F. Konrad
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Hours: TR 2:00-3:00 and by appointment
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Course Information and Syllabus

Subject: Practice in reading Latin prose writings, especially historical writings and letters.
Prerequisite: CLAS 122.

Course Description: The two principal texts read in this course are an adaptation, geared to students at
the intermediate level, of Petronius’ Satyricon, a Latin novel of the 1st century AD, and a selection of
unadapted passages from Caesar’s Gallic War, a historical narrative of the 1st century BC. Petronius’
novel offers a fascinating glimpse into Roman society and culture of his time, much of it from the
perspective of people on the fringes of society (slaves, freedmen, drifters) or the nouveaux riches,
while Caesar’s account of his military intervention in Gaul reflects the language and thought of the
Roman political elite. Each week’s reading assignments will be supplemented with copious in-depth
review of Latin grammar and syntax, such as relative clauses, purpose and result clauses, the use of
participles, indirect statements and indirect discourse, conditional clauses, and gerunds and gerundives.

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, students will be able to:

(1) read and accurately translate Latin prose texts of low-to-medium difficulty;

(2) place and interpret their readings in their cultural and historical context (e.g., the relations between
slaves and masters in a slave-owning society; cultural and social norms governing a Roman dinner party;
warfare and diplomacy in the service of imperialist expansion);

(3) identify and apply the principles of Latin grammar and syntax.

Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills: This course enhances critical thinking skills by requiring students to
accurately translate and interpret Latin texts from a variety of literary genres, and to analyze in-depth their
grammatical structure. Group/class discussion as well as written work are exercises in which students
demonstrate critical thinking skills.

Communication Skills: This course enhances communications skills by requiring students to
render their Latin readings in accurate, idiomatic English in class presentations and on written
examinations, and to explain Latin grammar and syntax in a coherent and consistent manner. Students
will examine and explore visual representations of themes from Roman life (e.g., houses, dress, dinner
scenes, portraits) and follow the geographic setting of their readings on maps of Italy and Gaul.

Social Responsibility: This course enhances social responsibility by developing intercultural
competence through mastery of the Latin language, which allows students to understand the relationship
between the practices and the perspectives of the culture they are studying, and by asking students to
consider Roman views on a number of vexing issues (e.g., gender, ethnicity, slavery, war, the relationship
between individual and society) and to explain why some of these views are seen as foundational to our
own while others have come to be considered abhorrent.

Personal Responsibility: This course enhances personal responsibility through engagement with
social issues in the world of the Roman Empire, by asking students to consider their own beliefs and
normative assumptions in light of the very different belief systems of the Romans, thereby prompting personal reflection and growth.

Required Texts:  

Optional Texts:  
Bennett, C. E. *A New Latin Grammar.*

Grading Policy:  
2 Translation Exams = 60%  
Quizzes (may be given without prior warning) = 20%  
Class Participation/Preparation = 20%

*Grading Scale:* A = 100-90  
B = 89-80  
C = 79-70  
D = 69-60  
F = below 60

In translation exams, a minor mistake will equal ½ (one-half) point deducted for 100 (one hundred) words of text; more serious mistakes (e.g., major errors in grammar or vocabulary that substantially affect the sense) will equal 1 (one) point. For shorter or longer passages, mistakes will count correspondingly more or less. All exams will consist of sight translation (i.e., a passage not previously studied in class) and questions pertaining to grammar, reading comprehension, and historical/literary background.

*Grading Marks:*  
--- = standard mistake: ½ point deducted  
| = serious mistake: 1 points deducted  
(5) = mistake cluster (sentence or substantial part of it so botched as to defy the counting of individual errors): 3-10 points deducted.

waveline: not exactly wrong, but poor translation/answer.

*Class Participation* (actively contributing to the class, e.g., volunteering to translate and answering questions) & *Preparation* (looking up all unknown vocabulary in the assignment, identifying its main grammatical elements, and making a sincere effort at producing a coherent translation): You will start out with a score of 50 ‘in the bank.’ Your preparation for and participation in class will be judged weekly. A good performance will earn up to 4 (four) additional points per week, to a maximum accumulation of 100 points; a poor performance will reduce your account by the same rate. No change will occur if your performance is unremarkable. If, without a university-approved excuse (see below, *Attendance*), you are manifestly unprepared for class, or fail to complete assigned homework, 4 (four) points will be deducted for each instance.

*Vocabulary:* Your texts contain the necessary vocabulary. You are expected to check all unknown vocabulary in preparation for class. You will not, however, be permitted to use the vocabularies in your texts in any of the 2 Translation Examinations. Hence it is crucial that you enter all new vocabulary in a Vocabulary Book and memorize it diligently and continuously.

*Translation Assignments:* You are expected to prepare each assignment before coming to class. You will not be allowed to use a written translation of the assigned passage in class, but you may use a list with critical vocabulary and grammar information. In class, you should be prepared to do the following:

--- answer questions on content and comprehension  
--- identify verb forms (person, number, tense, mood, voice)  
--- locate verbs and match them to their subjects  
--- recognize prepositional phrases  
--- identify main and subordinate clauses  
--- identify nouns, pronouns, and adjectives (case, number, gender)  
--- produce a reasonably accurate translation of the assignment  
--- identify and discuss personal difficulties with the assignment  
--- read Latin aloud with confidence and good pronunciation

*Attendance:* You will be allowed 1 (one) unexcused absence. For each additional unexcused absence, 2 (two) points may be subtracted from your overall Course Score. A perfect attendance record (zero
absences other than with documented University-approved excuse) will add 2 (two) points to your Course Score. Please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07 for current policy on University-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, an Explanatory Statement of Absence or a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as University-excused; for absences of three days or more, a note containing a medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary will be required (see Rule 7.1.6.1 and 7.1.6.2). Make-up tests will be given in accordance with University Regulations (7.3).

**Disabilities:** The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637). For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

**Academic Integrity:** "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to know the Aggie Honor Code and Honor Council Rules and Procedures: see http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor.

**Tentative Schedule**

**MDP = The Millionaire's Dinner Party**

**BG = Caesar, Bellum Gallicum** (pp. 3-16); **BC = Caesar, Bellum Civile** (pp. 16-26)


Week 3. Sept 11-13: MDP ch. 2, lines 1-21, 32-38. BG bk. 1.2.1-3.1


Week 6. Oct. 2-4: MDP ch. 5, lines 1-17, 37-54.


1st Translation Examination.

Week 8. Oct. 16-18: MDP ch. 6, lines 1-24. BG 1.34.


Week 11. Nov. 6-8: MDP ch. 9, lines 46-66. BG 2.19-21.


Nov. 22-23: THANKSGIVING BREAK


2nd Translation Examination.

Week 14a Dec. 4: Conclusion