

CLAS 165A Roman Decadence: Latin Literature in Translation

Course Syllabus

Professor Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow

Classical Studies, Brandeis University, Fall 2008

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Class Meets: Block P, Tuesday and Friday, 3:10 - 4:30 p.m., location TBA

Office Hours in Rabb 128: Tu. & Fri. Block P, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., and by appt.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Rationale: This course examines a substantial body of Roman literary works from the second century B.C.E. to the second century C.E. (to be read in translation). The texts are analyzed from social, historical, psychological, literary, and religious viewpoints. The principal theme of the course is the growing estrangement of Roman literature from classical ideas and its increasing involvement with exotic, private, and unconscious forces of disruption and decay. The concept of “Roman decadence” is explored and challenged, both by the Roman literary accomplishment itself and by its impact on the literature of subsequent periods. (Students majoring in Classical Studies may choose to read selected passages of these works in Latin, as well as the entire works in translation.)

Texts to purchase (listed mainly in order to be used in course):

1. Catullus: Lee, G. (trans.) *Poems of Catullus*, Oxford World Classics, ISBN: 019283587-4, pbk.
2. Livy: de Selincourt, A. (trans.) *The Early History of Rome*, Penguin, ISBN 0-14044-809-8, pbk.
3. Vergil: Mandelbaum, Allen (trans.) *The Aeneid of Vergil* Bantam, ISBN 0-553-21041-6, pbk. Also on reserve: PA 6807 A5 M23
4. Ovid: Martin, C. (trans.) *Metamorphoses* W.W. Norton, ISBN: 0-393-32642-X, pbk.
5. Ovid: Humphries, R. (trans.) *Art of Love* Indiana U. Press, ISBN: 025320002-4, pbk.
6. Seneca: Watling, E.F. *Four Tragedies and Octavia* Viking/Penguin (ISBN: 014044174-3)
7. Petronius: Arrowsmith, W. (trans.) *Satyricon* Viking/Penguin, ISBN: 045201005-5, pbk.
8. Suetonius: Graves, Robert (trans.) *Twelve Caesars* Viking/Penguin (ISBN: 014044072-0, pbk.
9. Apuleius: Relihan, Joel. (trans.) *Apuleius The Golden Ass* (Hackett Publishing Co. Indianapolis and Cambridge) ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-887-2, pbk.

Other texts posted on LATTE or on Reserve

10. Plautus: Smith, Peter L. (trans.) *Three Comedies: Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Rudens* Cornell Press, ISBN: 080149594-6, pbk. Also on reserve: PA6570 .A3 S65 1991
11. Terence: Radice, Betty (trans.) *The Comedies* Viking/Penguin, ISBN: 014044324-X, pbk.
12. Lucretius: Humphries, R. (trans.) *Lucretius: The Way Things Are* Indiana U. Press, ISBN: 025320125-X, pbk.
13. Cicero: Grant, M. (trans.) *Selected Works* Penguin, ISBN: 014044099-2, pbk.
14. Horace: Fuchs, J. (trans.) *Satires and Epistles of Horace* Norton, ISBN: 039309093-0, pbk. Also on reserve: PA6396 A2 F8 1977
15. Juvenal: Humphries, R. (trans.) *Satires* Midland Ind. Univ., ISBN: 0253200202, pbk.

Requirements:

Class attendance and participation are not only encouraged, but are necessary for successful completion of the course. More than two absences (without adequate explanation or documentation) WILL have a negative effect on your grade. Students are expected to have read the work(s) assigned before class in order to contribute to the making of rich and worthwhile discussions.

In addition to the assigned readings in the required texts (both those available in the campus bookstore and those posted on LATTE), other “recommended” assignments will be suggested from time to time from books on reserve in the library or from chapters and articles posted on LATTE. Everyone is encouraged to sample, if not to conquer, these suggested pages, especially if they relate to an author on which you are writing an essay yourself.

Every student in the class will be required to make a short public presentation (5-7 minutes) on one of the Roman works read in the course (to be determined by a lottery drawing at the beginning of the term). This presentation may be a mini lecture, a performance of a scene, a dramatic reading, or some other format. You will be rewarded for cleverness, but do not be flip or “cute”. Drawing lots from an urn, of course, was the method of selection for Roman forced labor, conscription into the Roman army, deciding the order of gladiator fights in the amphitheater, among many other “delights” from ancient Roman culture.

The written requirements for the course are the following:

1. one short paper--formal directions to follow, but 2-3 computer-generated, double-spaced pages--on textual explication (this paper may be completely rewritten for a new grade if student [and/or professor] are not satisfied);
2. one somewhat longer paper--5-6 computer-generated, double-spaced pages--building on textual explication to develop a more comprehensive literary analysis of a work--or works read--in the course;
3. short prospectus (1-2 pages) for final essay;

4. a take-home final essay/paper (6-8 typed, double-spaced pages, not including cover page, footnotes, and bibliography).
 5. If the class wishes to have a Midterm Exam, this can be arranged.
- N.B.** Students will lose one grade step (A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.) for every day a paper is late unless earlier arrangements are made and approved in advance.

Dates for Main Writing Assignments:

- Due: **Tuesday, September 23**- first paper on textual explication (2-3 pages long) If you choose to rewrite this paper for new grade, the rewrite due date is **Tuesday, October 7**. (See #1 above.)
- Due: **Tuesday, October 28** - 5-6 page paper (See #2 above.)
- Due: **Friday, November 14** - 1-2 page Prospectus for final paper (See #3 above.)
- Due: **Tuesday, December 9**, last day of class - final take-home essay/paper (6-8 pages) (See #4 above.)

Brief Course Overview with Mini-Lecture Titles and Discussion Topics:

- Texts are read mostly in chronological order.
- “Introductions--Decadence and Roman Literature”** (1 class period)
- “Early Latin, the Roman stage, and Plautus de Man”**
Reading: Plautus’ *Miles Gloriosus* (1 class period)
- “Terence Takes Up the Comic Ball”**
Reading: Terence’s *Andria* (1 class period)
- “The Nature of Things”**
Reading: Lucretius (selections) (1 class period)
- “On Friendship, Old Age, and Dying”**
Reading: Cicero, “On Old Age” (1 class period)
- “What was Love to a Roman?”**
Reading: Catullus, *Poems* (selections) (1 class period)
- “Roman Consciousness and the Private Self ”**
Reading: Horace, *Satires and Epistles* (selections) (1 class period)
- “What Happened to Greek Mythology in the hands of the Romans?”**
Reading: Livy, *The Early History of Rome* (selections) (1 class period)
- “The National Ideal and the National Hero”**
“Vergil’s *Aeneid*--Greek? anti-Greek?, Roman?, anti-Roman?”

- “A New Beginning for Literature or a Bad Ending?”**
Reading: Vergil, *Aeneid* (3 class periods)
- “Divine Intervention or a Hoax?”** (1 class period)
Reading: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (selections)
- “The Mechanization of Pleasure”**
“Love as a Game / Love as a Goal?”
Reading: Ovid, *Art of Love* (selections) (2 class periods)
- “The Baroque Consciousness of Death”**
Reading: Seneca, *Four Tragedies and Octavia* (selections) (1 class period)
- “Sex and the Anti-Hero”**
“A Dinner that Eats its Guests”
“Life’s Ship-Wrecks”
Reading: Petronius, *Satyricon* (3 class periods)
- “The City of Despair”**
Reading: Juvenal, *Satires* (selections) (1 class period)
- “Historical Hindsight?”**
“Or Hysterical Slander?”
Reading: Suetonius, *Twelve Caesars* (selections) (2 class periods)
- “Escape or Damnation?”**
“Love and Soul/ Cupid and Psyche”
“The Savior is Female After All”
Reading: Apuleius, *Golden Ass* (3 class periods)

Homework Assignments for fall semester (subject to some modification)

*** Indicates an important due date for written work or for an exam.**

DUE DATE:

August

29, Fri.

“Introductions”: to your professor, to each other, to the texts, to reading an ancient text, to Roman literature, and to the concept of decadence in literature and life.

Assignment for Tues., Sept. 2: Buy texts for course. Familiarize yourself with library Reserve. Read Plautus’ *Miles Gloriosus* in Smith, Peter L. (trans.) *Three Comedies: Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Rudens* Cornell Press 1991. ISBN: 080149594-6. Reserve: PA6570 .A3 S65 1991.

_____end week 1

September

02, Tues. “Early Latin, the Roman stage, and Plautus de Man”/
 Film selections, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”.
Required Reading (due today): Plautus’ *Miles Gloriosus* in Smith, (trans.) ISBN: 080149594-6. Reserve: PA6570 .A3 S65 1991

05, Fri. “Terence Takes Up the Comic Ball”/ Film selections, “Ocean’s Eleven”.
Required Reading (due today): Terence, *The Girl from Andria* in *The Comedies* Radice, (trans.) ISBN: 014044324-X.

Recommended Reading:

(1) Slater, Niall *Plautus in Performance* Princeton 1985 chpt. I, “Introduction: The Performance Dimension,” 3-18 and chpt. VIII, “Convention and Reaction,” 147-167. Reserve: PA 6585 .S55 1985;

(2) Segal, Erich *Roman Laughter The Comedy of Plautus* Harvard 1970 “Introduction,” 1-14 and chpt. I. “O Tempora, O Mos Maiorum,” 15-41. Reserve: PA 6585 Z9 S4;

(3) Anderson, William *Barbarian Play: Plautus’ Roman Comedy* U. of Toronto, 1993. Chpt. 1 “Plautus and the Deconstruction of Menander,” 3-29; chpt. 3 “Plautus’ Plotting: The Lover Upstaged,” 60-87; and chpt. 6 “Plautus and His Audience: The Roman Connection,” 133-151. Reserve: PA6585 .A63 1993;

(4) Watling, E.F. (trans.) *Plautus: The Pot of Gold and other Plays*, Penguin, 1987. Reserve: PA6570 .A3 W28 1965)--if you would like to read other plays of Plautus; or

(5) Plautus’ *Pseudolus* or *Rudens* in Smith, Peter L. (trans.) Reserve: PA6570 .A3 S65 1991, both of which are some of Plautus’ finest writing.

end week 2

09, Tues. “On the Nature of Things”
Required Reading (due today): Lucretius Bk. II, “Movements and Shapes of Atoms”; Bk. III, “Life and Mind”; and Bk. IV, “Sensation and Sex” in *The Way Things Are: The De Rerum Natura of Titus Lucretius Carus* Humphries (trans.) ISBN: 025320125-X.

12, Fri. “On Friendship, Old Age, and Dying”
Required Reading (due today): Cicero, “On Old Age” in *Selected Works* Grant (trans.) ISBN: 014044099-2.

Recommended Reading: Cicero, “Against Verres I” in *Selected Works* Grant (trans.) ISBN: 014044099-2; Minadeo, R. *The Lyre of Science*: chpt. II, “The Great Design,” 31-54. Reserve: PA 6484 .M5.

end week 3

16, Tues. "What was Love to a Roman?"

Required Reading (due today): Catullus, 1-116, selections TBA, in *The Poems of Catullus* Lee (trans.) ISBN: 019283587-4.

19, Fri. "Roman Consciousness and the Private Self "

Required Reading (due today): Fuchs, J. (trans.) *Satires and Epistles of Horace*, Norton: Bk. I Satires 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10; Bk. II Satires 6, 7; Bk. I Epistles 1, 2, 6; Bk. II Epistle 1, 3 (Art of Poetry). ISBN: 039309093-0.
Reserve: PA6396 A2 F8 1977

Recommended Reading:

- (1) Other satires and epistles in Fuchs, J. (trans.) *Satires and Epistles of Horace*, Norton. ISBN: 0-393-090-930. Reserve: PA6396 A2 F8 1977;
(2) Armstrong, D. *Horace*, Yale, 1989: Chpt. I, "The Young Horace 65-30 B.C.E.," 1-25; chpt. II, "Horace Before Augustus," 26-55; chpt. IV, "Later Life and Works," 117-162. Reserve: PA 6411 .A77 1989.

end week 4***23, Tues. First Paper Due on Catullus/****"What Happened to Greek Mythology in the hands of the Romans?"**

Required Reading (due today): de Selincourt, A. (trans.) Livy, *The Early History of Rome*, Penguin: Bk. I, 29-104. ISBN 0-14044-809-8.

**26, Fri. Class in the Brandeis Library, Gardner-Jackson room
"The National Ideal and the National Hero"**

Required Reading (due today): Vergil, *Aeneid* 1-4 in Mandelbaum, Allen (trans.) *The Aeneid of Vergil* Bantam. ISBN: 055321041-6.
Reserve: PA 6807 A5 M23.

Recommended Reading:

- (1) Camps, W. A. *An Introduction to Vergil's Aeneid*, Oxford, 1968: Chpt. I "Preliminary" 1-10, chpt. II "The story and its subject: Rome," 11-20, chpt. III "The hero: Aeneas," 21-30. Reserve: PA6825 .C36 1979;
(2) Quinn, Kenneth *Virgil's Aeneid A Critical Description*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1968: Chpt. 1. "The Heroic Impulse," 1-22, chpt. 2. "Genesis-- What is *Aeneid* about? The Task and its Problems? The Problem Solved," 22-58, and chpt. 3. "Structure," 59-98. Reserve: PA 6825 Q 5 1968.

end week 5**29, Mon. Brandeis Tuesday class schedule****"Vergil's *Aeneid*--Greek? anti-Greek?, Roman?, anti-Roman?"**

Required Reading (due today): Vergil, *Aeneid* 5-8 in Mandelbaum, Allen (trans.) *The Aeneid of Vergil*, Bantam, ISBN: 0-553-21041-6. Reserve: PA 6807 A5 M23.

Recommended Reading:

Martindale, Charles (ed.) *Virgil and his Influence* (Bimillennial Studies) Bristol Classical Press, 1984: "Introduction" (Martindale) 1-24; "The Poetic

Intention of Virgil's *Aeneid*" (Williams) 25-36; "Virgil in Dante" (Hardie) 37-70; and "Virgil in Shakespeare (Nuttall) 71-94. Reserve: PA 6826 .V57 1984.

30, Tues. NO CLASS Rosh Hashanah

DUE DATE:

October

03, Fri. "A New Beginning for Literature or a Bad Ending?"

Required Reading (due today): Vergil, *Aeneid* 9-12 in Mandelbaum, Allen (trans.) *The Aeneid of Vergil*, Bantam. ISBN 055321041-6. Reserve: PA 6807 A5 M23.

Recommended Reading:

(1) McKay, Alexander G. *Virgil's Italy* New York Graphic Society Ltd., 1970: Chpt. I. "The Achievement of Vergil," 17-54. Reserve: PA6825 M33.

(2) Sowerby, Robin (ed.) *Dryden's Aeneid A Selection with Commentary*, Bristol Classical Press, 1986: A translation of Bks. I-VI, 54-160. Reserve: PA 6807 .A5 D7 1986.

_____end week 6

*07, Tues. Optional Rewrite of Paper #1 due

Divine Intervention or a Hoax?

Required Reading (due today): Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Bks. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 (selections TBA) in Martin, C. (trans.) *Metamorphoses* W.W. Norton, ISBN: 0-393-32642-X.

10, Fri. NO CLASS, Yom Kippur

_____end week 7

14, Tues. NO CLASS Succot

17, Fri. Prof. Koloski-Ostrow at conference in Buffalo, but there IS class.

"The Baroque Consciousness of Death"

Film selections, "Catch 22" and/or "Slaughterhouse 5," if available

Required Reading (due today): Watling, E.F. *Four Tragedies and Octavia* Viking/Penguin: "Thyestes," 43-93, and "The Trojan Women," 153-204. ISBN: 0-14-044174-3.

Recommended Reading:

(1) Boyle, A.J. *Tragic Seneca An Essay in the Theatrical Tradition*, Routledge, 1997: Chpt. 1 "The Roman Theater," 3-12. Reserve: PA 6685 .B69 1997;

(2) Lucas, F.L. *Seneca and Elizabethan Tragedy*, Cambridge, 1922: Chpt. III "The Tragedies of Seneca," 53-77. Reserve: PA6675 L8;

(3) Costa, C.D.N. (ed.) *Seneca*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1974: Chpt. IV. "The Tragedies," 96-115 (Costa) and chpt. VI. "Seneca and English Tragedy," (G. K. Hunter) 166-204. Reserve: PA 6675 Z9 C67;

(4) Sullivan, J.P. (trans.) *The Apocolocyntosis*, Penguin, 1986: 209-243. Reserve: PA 6558 .E5 S8 1986;

(5) Rouse, W.H.D. (trans.) *Seneca's Apocolocyntosis*, Harvard U. Press, 1987: 437-483. Reserve: PA 6558 .A2 1975.

end week 8

21, Tues. NO CLASS Shemini Atzeret

24, Fri. "The Mechanization of Pleasure"

Required Reading (due today): Ovid, "Art of Love," Bk. I, 105-129, and Bk. II., 130-152 in Humphries, R. (trans.) *Art of Love*, Indiana U. Press. ISBN: 025320002-4.

Recommended Reading:

Green, Peter (trans.) *Ovid: The Erotic Poems*, Penguin, 1982: "Introduction," 15-80. Reserve: PA 6522 .A2 1982.

end week 9

28, Tues. "Love as a Game / Love as a Goal?"

Required Reading (due today): Ovid, "Art of Love," Bk. III, 153-178 in Humphries, R. (trans.) *Art of Love*, Indiana U. Press. ISBN: 0-253-20002-4.

Recommended Reading:

Myerowitz, Molly. *Ovid's Games of Love*, Wayne State, 1985: Chpt. 1 "Love in the Art of Love," 17-40, and chpt. 6 "The Limits of Ars" 150-174. Reserve: PA 6519 .A84 M94 1985.

31, Fri. "Sex and the Anti-Hero"

Required Reading (due today): Arrowsmith, W. (trans.) *Satyricon* (of Petronius), Viking/Penguin: 21-84. ISBN: 045201005-5.

end week 10

DUE DATE:

November

04, Tues. "A Dinner that Eats its Guests"

Required Reading (due today): Arrowsmith, W. (trans.) *Satyricon* (of Petronius), Viking/Penguin: v-xviii, 84-128. ISBN: 045201005-5.

Recommended Reading:

(1) Slater, Niall W. *Reading Petronius*, The John Hopkins Press, 1990: I "Introduction: Constructing the Audience," 1-23; II "*In media verba*," 27-37; III "Sex and Sensibility," 38-49; and IV "A Self-Consuming *Cena*," 50-86. Reserve: PA6559 .S5 1990.

(2) Sullivan, J.P. *The Satyricon of Petronius A Literary Study*, Indiana U. Press, 1968: II "A Reconstruction of the *Satyricon*," 34-80; and VI "The Humor of Petronius," 214-231. Reserve: PA 6559 S8.

07, Fri. "Life's Ship-Wrecks"

Required Reading (due today): Arrowsmith, W. (trans.) *Satyricon* (of Petronius), Viking/Penguin: 128-165. ISBN: 045201005-5.

end week 11

11, Tues. Catch-up Discussions on all we've read so far.
Film selections, *Satyricon* by Fellini.

***14, Fri. Prospectus for final Paper due.**

"The City of Despair" Film selections, *Roma* by Fellini.

Required Reading (due today): Juvenal, *Satires* 2, 3, 15 in Humphries, R. (trans.) *Satires*. Midland, Ind. Univ. ISBN: 025320020-2.

Recommended Reading:

(1) Green, Peter (trans.) *Juvenal The Sixteen Satires*, Penguin, 1974: notes especially recommended. Reserve: PA 6447 .E5 G7.

(2) Hight, Gilbert *Juvenal the Satirist: A Study*, Oxford, 1955: Scan table of contents for topics of interest; chpt. I. "Introduction," 2-3; chpt. VI. "Introduction to the Satires," 44-46. Reserve: PA 6448 H5 C.2

end week 12

18, Tues. "Historical Hindsight?"

Required Reading (due today): Suetonius on Augustus, 54-112, in Graves, Robert (trans.) *Twelve Caesars*, Viking/Penguin. ISBN: 014044072-0.

Recommended Reading:

Wallace-Hadrill, Andrew. *Suetonius: The Scholar and his Caesars*, Yale, 1983: Chpt. 1. "The Man and the Style," 1-25. Reserve: PA 6702 .A5 W3 1984.

21, Fri. "Or Hysterical Slander?"

Required Reading (due today): Suetonius on Nero, 213-246; Vespasian 278-291; and Domitian, 299-314, in Graves, Robert (trans.) *Twelve Caesars*, Viking/Penguin. ISBN: 014044072-0.

end week 13

25, Tues. "Escape or Damnation?"

Required Reading (due today): Apuleius, *The Golden Ass or Metamorphoses*, Intro, ix-xxxi, Chpts. 1-4, 3-86, in Relihan, Joel C. (trans.) *The Golden Ass or Book of Changes* (of Apuleius), Hackett Publishing Co., Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-887-2.

27-28, Thurs.-Fri. Thanksgiving Break (Please continue reading Apuleius, *Golden Ass* during this long weekend.)

end week 14

DUE DATE:**December****02, Tues. "Love and Soul/ Cupid and Psyche"**

Required Reading (due today): Apuleius, *The Golden Ass or Metamorphoses*, Chpts. 4, 5-9, 86-206, in Relihan, Joel C. (trans.) *The Golden Ass or Book of Changes* (of Apuleius), Hackett Publishing Co., Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-887-2.

Recommended Reading:

(1) Tatum, James. *Apuleius and the Golden Ass*, Cornell, 1979: 21-91 on Apuleius' original eleven books of *Metamorphoses*. Reserve: PA 6217 .T3.

(2) Winkler, J.J. *Auctor and Actor: A Narratological Reading of Apuleius' Golden Ass*, U. of California Press, 1985: Chpt. 1, "The Question of Reading," 1-22. Reserve: PA 6217 .W5 1985.

05, Fri. "The Savior is Female After All" and

Required Reading (due today): Apuleius, *The Golden Ass or Metamorphoses*, Chpts. 10-11, 207-254, in Relihan, Joel C. (trans.) *The Golden Ass or Book of Changes* (of Apuleius), Hackett Publishing Co., Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-887-2.

end week 15***09, Tues. "Conclusion/Wrap-up: Our Roman Connection"****Last Class, Take-Home Final Essay due**

end week 16