



CLASSICS (SACR)

LATI 401 Latin Prose Authors 2009 (Trimesters 1/2; March 2-November 15)

Lecturers: Dr. Mark Masterson, OK 511, ph. 463-6909 (Coordinator)
Prof. Arthur Pomeroy OK 515 ph. 463-6781

Time and Place: Seneca, *Select Letters* (Macmillan)
(3 hrs for 6 weeks from 2 Mar)
Mon, Wed, Thur 2:00-3:00 PM—OK 523

Tacitus, *Histories I* (Cambridge)
(TBA—either last half of trimester 1 or first half of
trimester 2—location will be announced)

Ammianus Marcellinus, *Res Gestae* (Bristol)
(3 hrs for 6 weeks from 7 September)
Mon, Wed, Thur 1:00-2:00 PM—OK 524

Notices

Any additional information (terms lists, changes, unofficial exam results, etc) will be posted on the Departmental notice board on the FIFTH floor of OLD KIRK. A notice giving examination times and places for all courses taught in the Classics will also be posted there when this information is available. The Classics WWW page (<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/classics>) contains useful information on Classics in general.

E-mail should be sent to either mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz or arthur.pomeroy@vuw.ac.nz.

Content

This course will read a selection of Seneca's *Letters* (Macmillan) and portions of Tacitus' *Histories I* (Cambridge) and Ammianus Marcellinus' *Res Gestae* (Bristol).

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered in a seminar format featuring discussion of text that has been translated prior to class by the students. There will be readings in the secondary literature on occasion. It is essential that students keep up so that they may receive the most benefit from instruction and discussion.

Course Aims and Objectives

1. To increase fluency and speed in reading Latin.
2. To think critically about the language and the authors in question.

By the end of the course the student should have:

- a. Read a substantial amount of Latin text of Seneca's letters, Tacitus' *Histories Book 1*, and Ammianus Marcellinus' *Res Gestae*;
- b. Been introduced to the main themes of the texts and their generic forms, i.e., history and epistolography;
- c. Understood the place that Seneca, Tacitus, and Ammianus hold in the development of Roman prose.

The assessment will assess how well you have achieved these objectives.

Texts

Seneca, *Letters* (Macmillan; available from the Classics Programme)

Tacitus, *Histories I* (Cambridge)

Ammianus Marcellinus, *Res Gestae* (Bristol; available from the Classics Programme)

Assessment (Out of 100%)

(1) Essay (20%)

An essay based on Seneca to be determined in conjunction with the course instructor ca. 1500 – 2000 words in length, due 27 April.

(2) Essay (20%)

Either an essay on Tacitus (due 7 September)
or an essay on Ammianus Marcellinus, due 19 October.

Topic to be determined in conjunction with the course instructor, ca. 1500 – 2000 words in length.

(3) Final Examination (60%) – 3 hours (**Exam period is 19 October to 15 November**)
6 passages (2 each) from a choice of 12 from the three authors for translation and comment.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Completion of the two essays and final examination as specified above.

Workload

In order to complete the course successfully an average student should expect to spend about 25 hours per week for 6-8 weeks. This includes 7 hours of class time and 18 hours preparing texts and wider reading and assignment work. Students will be expected to have prepared at least two full pages of prose (as appropriate to the section) for each class.

Overdue Work

Extensions must be sought through the instructor prior to the due date of the work. In the absence of an extension overdue work will be penalised by 5% per day at the discretion of the instructor.

Marking and Overdue Assignments

It is a traditional policy to return marked work to students within two weeks of its receipt. Special circumstances may result in failure to achieve this goal. In the case of the receipt of assignments from students after they are due the course organizer reserves the right to mark work without comments and to reduce the grade that the work receives by 5% per day.

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to

mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.