CLASS 303L Reading Latin Prose

Fall 2014 Semester, San Diego State University
Brett Robbins, Ph.D., Department of Classics & Humanities
Class Hours: TTh 2-3:15 PM, Classroom: AL-109
Office Hours (AL-672): MW 12:30-1:45 PM (or by appointment)
Phone: 805-444-2393, E-mail: iuaccount123@yahoo.com

*COURSE DESCRIPTION*
This course introduces second-year Latin students to the language and music of the prose of Cicero. We will read the sentences out loud, observing the various rhetorical devices employed by this greatest of Latin prose stylists. We will translate with attention to both the literal and artistic meaning of the words.

*OBJECTIVES*
Our primary aim will be to encounter the Catilinarian orations on their own terms and to recognize the advantages, both semantically and musically, to reading Cicero’s prose in the original Latin. I want you to come away from this courseWanting to read much more Latin on your own.

*CLASS FORMAT/INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS*
Students will take turns reading a certain number of lines to the rest of the class, with proper pronunciation and cadence, and translating them as literally as possible. Then they will be asked questions about the grammar and/or meaning of the selection. Special attention will be given to helping students make constructive use of the commentary and grammatical appendix to the text we’ll be using—and whatever other aids I might bring to class—to tease out answers for themselves.

*REQUIRED TEXTBOOK*

Susan O. Shapiro

*GRADING POLICY*
Your final grade* for the course will be determined by 1) three non-cumulative exams, including the Final (25% each) and 2) attendance and participation (i.e., how well you translate [without looking at your English translation: I expect you to work through your passage in real time, however tentatively, rather than read us the translation you’ve already written out at home] and answer grammatical questions about the passages we read in class)(25%).

*CLASS PROCEDURE*
I will assign a certain number of lines at the end of each class meeting, depending on how the class is progressing. I expect students to have already prepared the assigned lines when they get to class. I will call on students randomly rather than in the same order, so be sure to be prepared.

*EXAM SCHEDULE*
EXAM #1: Thursday, 10/2
EXAM #2: Thursday, 11/13
EXAM #3 (FINAL): Tuesday, 12/9 (2 pm)

*I reserve the right to make any changes to this syllabus I deem necessary, which I will announce both in class and via e-mail.*