Classics 304L: Introduction to Latin Poetry

Texts

Required Texts

Ostwald, Rosenmeyer, Ostwald: (1964). *The Meters of Greek and Latin Poetry*

Recommended Texts


Course Description and Requirements

The course objectives are three: (1) students will gain basic and general introduction to the poetry of a few of Rome's golden lyric artists of the late republic and early empire (Catullus, Horace, Ovid and Martial), (2) students will acquire rudimentary skills in prosody and the scansion of Latin poetry and will learn the basic metric modes of elegiac and lyric (dactylic hexameters and pentameters, hendecasyllabics, Alcaics and Sapphics), and (3) students will be exposed to elemental literary theory applicable to the poetry we'll be translating.

A considerable part of your course grade will be based on my observations of your daily recitation. You will discover that to impress upon me that you have well prepared your assignment will require you to read through the assignment multiple times: you will want to write down and memorize unfamiliar vocabulary words, take note of unusual declensions and verb forms, analyze grammatical structure and identify clause types, and then reread the passage until you can do it with minimal help from your notes. I shall ask you myriad questions about the syntax of the lines we translate and you will soon gain a good sense of what kind of answers to have ready for me. Our goal as fledgling readers is to look to the Latin text (and not our notes or, still worse, our written-out-long-hand translations) and generate meaning from it. In class I want you to work from clean Latin texts. You will doubtless want to jot notes to yourself and scribble marginalia as you find it helpful. But this is different from the laborious and ultimately unhelpful writing down of the translation as we do it.

Some of the reading material for the class derives from a variety of sources in addition to your Longman reader. These will be available to you on Blackboard as will your poetry exercises. To do the class, you've got to activate your Blackboard account.

Instructions for doing scansion exercises follow the Syllabus. You will be asked on the midterm and final to scan lines of poetry

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework, reading quizzes, in-class translation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm One</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Another JAS Production, Pg. 1
Midterm Two 25%
Final (Thursday, 19 May, 2005,) 30%