Classics 599L: Cicero and the Ciceronian Style

Texts

REQUIRED TEXTS

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Course Description and Objectives

The course has two main objectives: (1) to explore the art of Cicero by reading an oratorical masterpiece of unassailable excellence, and (2) to explore the art of Cicero by writing imitative masterpieces with impeccable polish. Short of obtaining those, our efforts will have been utterly wasted.

Let us reacquaint now ourselves with Tully. Let us put aside our juvenile and ill-informed opinions about the artist and admit that our predisposition to dislike Cicero is the fault of our shortcomings, not his. Let us read with enjoyment and insight a sample of Latin prose style of such refinement and gleaming finish that we shall be stunned into silence at its perfection, humbled at the memory of our misbegotten prejudice, and eternally appreciative that such a sensitive craftsman cared to share his art across the ages with such insignificant tyros as ourselves. Thank you, Marcus Tullius Cicero. Thank you for pro Caelio.

See attachment for specific directions on procedures for submitting compositions.

Course Requirements and Grading

(1) daily preparation for in class recitation, (2) 14 Latin compositions, (3) one midterm, (4) one final

Daily Recitation 40%
Compositions 25%
Midterm 15%
Final 20%

Examination and Assignment Schedule

Midterm Week 8, Monday 27 March
Final Week 15, Wednesday 17 May