CLASS 303L/599L Readings in Latin Prose

Fall 2013 Semester, San Diego State University
Brett Robbins, Ph.D., Department of Classics & Humanities
Class Hours: TTh 2-3:15 PM, Classroom: HH-206
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces second-year Latin students to the language and music of the prose of Cicero’s and Livy’s prose. We will read the sentences out loud, observing the various rhetoric devices employed for greatest effect. 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 and *ab Urbe Condita* on their own terms and to recognize the advantages, both semantically and musically, to reading Cicero’s and Livy’s prose in the original Latin. I want you to come away from this course wanting to read the rest of these authors on your own. My wish is to help you hear what those who devote their lives to studying them hear in them.

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 texts we’ll be using--and whatever other aids I might bring to class--to tease out answers for themselves.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Susan O. Shapiro

P.G. Walsh

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%).

*599L students will be required to do an additional assignment (topic to be determined).

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 any order, so be sure to be prepared.

EXAM SCHEDULE
EXAM #1: Thursday, 9/26
EXAM #2: Thursday, 11/7
EXAM #3 (FINAL): Tuesday, 12/17 (1-3 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.