Latin 1411 – Fall 2020: Latin Poetry

Josh Dollar  
Email: jdollar@frenship.us  
Conference Periods: 1st and 7th  
Tutorials: Tues. through Fri. (on Blue Days): 8:15 – 8:50 am  
Also available by appointment most days

Course Description: This course focuses on close readings of Vergil’s Aeneid with supplementary readings from 38 Latin Stories, Ovid’s Metamorphoses, and other Roman poets of the late republic and early empire. Broader issues to be emphasized include: literary translation, various modes of interpretation (ancient and modern), scansion of Latin poetry, the influence of Roman poetry on art, and the social, historical, and cultural context of the authors’ poetry we read.

Goals: My five aims are to help you improve your Latin reading skills; to help you review Latin grammar and syntax; to acquaint you with some recent articles on Roman poetry and Roman culture; to help you articulate your scholarly opinions; and to help you improve your ability to write and present short, cogent papers.

Required Textbook:  
You will need a college Latin-English Dictionary or access to online Latin dictionaries.  
All other required texts will be provided on Schoology.

Optional Textbook:  
(While not necessary, this text will provide tools and notes that are incredibly helpful in both translating the Aeneid as well as providing notes and context for understanding the text once it is translated)

by The Ancient Library (Author)  
ISBN-10: 1537029797  

Secondary Sources: Secondary readings will be posted on Schoology.

Short Writing Assignments: Multiple short responses throughout the semester.  
In addition, there will be some short homework assignments in addition to translating/reading.

Academic Article Reading/Presentations: Students will be asked to read and present to the class various academic articles on the Latin poets, their poetry, interpretation, historical context, etc… of material we will be studying. These will count as quiz grades.

Classwork/Homework assignments: Almost every class will have a translation and discussion of Latin Literature and/or a discussion of English readings. It is important to keep up with assignments in order to avoid them snowballing and depriving you of the ability to participate in class.
Late Assignments: Please let me know in advance if your assignments will be late. Assignments more than one week late will receive a zero unless prior arrangements are made.

Assessments: We will have a Quizzes almost every week. These quizzes may include questions on content of poems, interpretation, translation, grammar questions, and vocabulary. Any additional tests will be announced at least two class periods in advance. We will have a minimum of two Tests per six weeks and either an argumentative essay or informative research paper as well as one project per semester.

Grading: Classwork, participation, and homework will make up 30% of your course grade. Quizzes will make up 30% of your course grade. Major exams, essays/papers, and projects will make up the remaining 40% of the final grade. If there is improvement across the semester, later grades may count more. Consistently excellent work and participation in class can also raise your overall grade. There are no retakes or corrections for partial points in Dual Credit classes, so be prepared for class and begin studying for assessments well in advance.

I expect you to prepare for each class, to participate fully, and to listen thoughtfully to your classmates. But it is always okay to make mistakes when you translate in class. As long as you are obviously engaged with the course, errors made in class will not result in low grades on participation.

Grading Scale: 90% and above = A; 80% to 89% = B; 70% to 79% = C; 60% to 69% = D; below 60% = F.

Academic Misconduct: "Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook." Any student who practices academic dishonesty in this class will be dismissed from class and s/he will receive an F for the course.

Cell Phone Policy: Turn off all pagers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom. I will occasionally give you permission to use these devices for academic purposes. Any use of such devices without permission will result in removal of the device from your possession.