LATN 232-01H Catullus

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LATN 232H: Catullus

Xavier University
TR 2:30-3:45 am
Alter 208

Instructor: Dr. Shannon LaFayette-Hogue
E-mail: hogues@xavier.edu
Office: Schott 809
Office Hours: TR 1:00 – 2:00 PM or by appointment
Phone: 513-745-1982

Description and Goals: This class will focus on a close reading of the poems of Catullus, whose poetry is both passionate and learned. We will analyze Catullus’ poems to understand clearly the grammar and syntax, but we will also read with an eye on Catullus’ view of his society, love, sex, poetry, gender, politics, friendship, and all the other things that make life worth living and at the same time full of much suffering. And of course, there are the intricacies of Latin metrics.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course students will be able to
• read Catullus’ poems in Latin with ease and facility
• demonstrate mastery of the rules of Latin poetry (scansion, figures, etc.)
• demonstrate an understanding of Catullus’ social, literary, and political milieu
• demonstrate mastery of the more complex rules of Latin grammar and syntax
• increase Latin vocabulary
• utilize research tools for Classical research in hard copy and electronic formats
• present ideas orally for peer and instructor review using technology
• improve college-level writing skills by writing a 7-10 page research paper in collaboration with the instructor on an original idea
• fairly and accurately evaluate the work of others
• demonstrate the ability to analyze, respond to, and interpret literary texts used in these courses.
• individually and cooperatively demonstrate the ability to think critically and to solve problems critically, analytically and creatively.
• demonstrate the ability to express themselves articulately in writing, orally and with technology.
• demonstrate the ability to understand the methodology of the humanities.

Required Texts
Supplemental readings on Canvas

Student Responsibilities and Attendance:
• read all assignments before class and come prepared to translate
• bring all relevant materials to class
• give this class the appropriate time it needs
• take notes and ask questions
• be courteous to other students and your teacher
• come to class on time
• attend class regularly and on time

NB: Success in this course is directly proportional to attendance; you are responsible for all material covered in class—not all of which derives from readings—and all changes made to the assignments regardless of your attendance. This course cannot be taken in absentia. After three excused absences your total grade for the course will be lowered by one letter grade and your grade will continue to drop with each successive absence. If circumstances arise that cause you to miss class more than the attendance policy allows, you need to drop this course and take it again when
you are able to complete its requirements in accordance with the attendance policy. **Unexcused absences are not allowed and you will lose one percentage point from your total grade.**

In the event of an excused absence:
- read/translate the material assigned for the class on the previous meeting
- contact a classmate to determine what was covered (do not contact me)
- borrow a classmate’s notes for the date

You need an XU account (e-mail account that ends xavier.edu) and access to Canvas and other XU sites in order to keep abreast of assignments and manage course information and material. If you do not have daily access to XU websites, you cannot successfully fulfill the requirements this course.

If you are a student athlete or student with a disability or special needs and you need special services or assistance, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Common Courtesy:**
- Come to class on time. If you come a little late, enter and take your seat quietly. If you come late or leave early by more than 20 minutes, you will be counted absent for that day.
- Be thoughtful of other students. Do not engage in discussions while others are translating.
- Turn off cell phones and put away all electronic and Internet gadgets before class.
- Do not read outside material or prepare work for other classes during our time together.
- Do not wear hats, hoods, or baseball caps to tests.
- Do not bring friends or relatives of any age to class without prior permission.

You will be dismissed from class and need to meet with the Dean for permission to return if you are not mindful of the above rules for common courtesy.

**Grading and Assignments**

**Departmental Grade Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90-91</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-89</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>84-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-75</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>69-65</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Students can expect a grade of “C” for meeting the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance. It is my policy not to discuss grades without an appointment. If you have a question about your grade, you must make an appointment or come see me during office hours. No Incompletes will be given.

Your grade for this course will be an average of the following (barring participation problems)

- **3 exams** @ 20% each = 60%
- **Summaries** = 20%
- **Catullus Reimagined** = 20%

**Exams:** There will be three exams – two during term and a final (9/29, 11/3, and Tues., Dec. 15, 1:00-2:50 pm). Exams will focus on translation, grammar, and syntax for seen passages and may include short answer or essay questions on material covered in class. The Final Exam time and date cannot be changed for any reason without permission from the Dean.

**Summaries:** You will be assigned scholarly works to read and summarize. Summaries must be at least one page, no longer than one and a half pages: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1 in. margins.

**Catullus Reimagined:** You will complete two assignments that use music and visual art to explore the content and emotion in the works of Catullus. The goal of these assignments is to build upon our study
of Catullus’ language and deepen our appreciation of Catullus as a poet and artist whose works were originally read aloud.

The assignments should be based on two different poems of your choice:
1) Select a Catullus poem and a song (of the 20th – 21st century) that expresses similar sentiments/feelings to you. Play the song and explain your selection. Provide a handout that includes 1) the Latin and your own English translation of the Catullus poem, 2) the lyrics of the song, 3) a short bibliography (2-3 sources) that you consulted to support your interpretation of the poem.

2) Illustrate one of Catullus’ poems using a particular "artistic" style (from Classical to Impressionist to Graphic Novel to Internet meme collage). You do not need the ability to draw or paint to complete this assignment. If you are not a naturally gifted artist (as I am not) consider building a diorama, digital possibilities available on campus and the web, e.g. Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, comic strip generators, etc. The point is to creatively translate Catullus’ thoughts from written word to visual form, not necessarily to create a “masterpiece.” With your project, provide a handout that includes 1) the Latin and your own English translation of the Catullus poem, 2) a short bibliography (2-3 sources) that you consulted to support your interpretation of the poem.

Note: You may choose to complete a traditional, 8-10 page research paper exploring a topic related to the artistry of Catullus instead of the creative assignments. To select this option, you must meet with me to have your topic approved and convey why you think that a research paper would be more beneficial to your study of Catullus.

Translation and Participation:
For translation in class you may not read off of a fully written English translation. Translate only from the Latin text. As you translate at home, keep a vocabulary/grammar list of your own making in a separate notebook that you can refer to in class. Keep interlinear notations to a bare minimum; your Latin text should be clear and visible. Translation and participation are essential to this course. Grades are not given for participation; however you will lose one percentage point from your class total for each day you are unprepared to translate. Always consult the commentary in your text as you translate.

Late Assignments:
All work must be completed on time. You will lose 10% the first day and 5% each successive day for late summaries, presentations, and papers. Tests must be taken at the scheduled dates during class. Make ups cannot be administered except for emergencies documented by the Dean, must be taken within a week of documentation, and may differ from the original. Please write legibly. Points deducted for unclear penmanship cannot be made up.

Academic Honesty (from XU’s handbook):
“The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.
All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own.
Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignments, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.”