LATN 341-01 Tacitus: Honors

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Objectives and Procedures

This course will examine the historical writings of Tacitus, who wrote at the end of the first century and the beginning of the second century AD. As always, we will be working on improving our Latin reading abilities through in-class translations and exams. We will be studying both the historical events that Tacitus records, and Tacitean historiography, that is, how Tacitus composes his history. We will be especially concerned with Tacitus’ portrayal of the emperor and the imperial succession, liberty and tyranny, the Roman military, the senate, and rhetoric and historiography.

The minimum expectations for this course are to have done the translations ahead of time and to be prepared to translate in class and discuss with intellectual rigor the assigned reading. You may not read a written out translation; vocabulary must not be written in the text. Vocabulary notes should be written on a separate piece of paper and only referred to when necessary. Remember, the better prepared you are for class the better class will be for all.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

• read Tacitus’ history in Latin with ease and facility
• demonstrate mastery of the rules and rhetoric of Latin prose (figures, style, etc.)
• articulate an understanding of the development of Roman historiography and Tacitus’ contribution to it
• demonstrate an understanding of Tacitus’ 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 10-20 page research paper in collaboration with the instructor on an original idea
• collaborate with a group to research a topic, acquire group-oriented problem solving skills
• fairly and accurately evaluate the work of others
• apply knowledge gained in the areas of critical thinking and effective communication to other classes
• analyze, respond to, and interpret literary texts used in these courses.
• think critically and to solve problems critically, analytically and creatively.
• express themselves articulately in writing, orally and with technology.
• understand the methodology of the humanities.
Texts

*Tacitus, the Annals Books I–VI.* Ed. William Francis Allen. (Honors Library $5.00 rental fee)


Handouts and Articles

Assignments and Examinations

Exams: 2 @ 20% each = 40%
Reflection Papers: 5 @ 5% each = 25%
Research Paper Presentation: 5%
Research Paper: 30% divided as follows – 4% prospectus and bibliography, 12% rough draft, 4% peer review, 10% final draft.

NB: There will be no incompletes. The research paper needs to be submitted to TurnItIn; I will not accept papers by email. Assignments turned in late will be dropped a letter grade for each day they are late.

Exams: There will be two exams. Exams must be taken on the date assigned. There will be no make-up exams without a doctor’s note.

Reflection Papers: We will be reading books 1–6 of the *Annales* in English. For each book you will be given an essay prompt for reflection. Reflections must be more than one page, but no more than three.

Research Paper Presentation: This will be a presentation of your research paper topic. You will need to do an electronic presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi, or another program. Bring to class copies for everyone of a 1–page handout with your thesis statement in paragraph form followed by bullet points relevant to your topic and a brief list of your most important bibliography.

Research Paper: Consider this paper as an opportunity to explore a topic that interests you and to compose a written essay wherein you demonstrate to yourself and to your instructor how well you can state what you know and how well you can analyze and interpret evidence.

Topics: Negotiable – practically any topic related to the general themes treated in this course is appropriate. You are constrained not by what I think is a good topic, but by what you can reasonably do in the time permitted and by the resources available. Confine your topic to manageable proportions! For example: “Tacitus and the Roman Emperors” is too big – a somewhat more suitable topic might be “Tacitus and Tiberius.” Likewise, “Roman Historiography” is also too broad, but there is enough evidence to do a good, brief paper on some aspect of Roman historiography. You need not write a paper on a specific topic; instead, you may choose to write a critical book review, wherein you compare and contrast two (or more) modes and methods of presenting and interpreting topics pertinent to this course. You must meet with me before your prospectus is due to discuss your topic. You will also need to conference with me after writing your rough draft to discuss your paper; please bring the graded rough draft with you to this meeting.
Evaluation, Scope and Format: Your paper will be graded for content, clarity, and accuracy of written expression. Your paper must be between 10-20 double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, one-inch margin ed pages with page numbers in the lower right corner. Your paper should include, as appropriate, footnotes and references in HAB format and style, which I will provide to you. Internet–only sources must be pre-approved.

Schedule: October 8th submit a 1-2 page statement of your intended topic. This needs to be more than a paragraph. Include a bibliography with a minimum of 10 items that you have already examined relevant to your paper, which were not assigned as class reading. On-line sources need to be pre-approved. The prospectus and bibliography will count for 4% of your grade.

November 19th submit a draft of your paper. You should think of this as the final version of your paper. I shall read and annotate your paper (as soon as I can), then we shall discuss your draft and how and in what ways it should be revised. Your paper must be submitted to TurnItIn by 5:00 pm. The rough draft will count for 12% of your grade.

December 3rd comments on your peers are due. The peer reviews will count for 4% of your grade. We will discuss this part of the assignment in more detail in class.

December 12th final papers are due. The final draft will count for 10% of your grade.

Departmental Grading Scale: 

A = 100-95  A- = 94-93  B+ = 92-91  B = 90-87
B- = 86-85  C+ = 84-83  C = 82-79  C- = 78-77
D+ = 76-75  D = 74-72  D- 71-70  F = 69-0

A grade of “C” is what students can expect who meet the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance.

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.”
Student Responsibilities and Attendance policy:

- Do all assignments before class (not in class)
- Bring all relevant materials to class (texts, articles, etc.)
- Give this class the appropriate time it needs and attend class regularly

  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 four 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 excused absence (A to A-, A- to B+, and so on).** 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. **Unexcused absences are not allowed.**

  In the event of an excused absence: consult the blackboard page for the assignment, which you should complete; consult a classmate for notes.

Common Courtesy:

- Come to class on time. If you come a little late, enter and take your seat quietly. If you come too late or leave early, you will be counted absent for that day.
- Be thoughtful of other students. Do not engage in discussions during lectures or films.
- **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 to class of any age without prior permission.
- While images and frank discussions of sex, violence, prejudice and bias, and other potentially offensive ideas and material are bound to occur, offensive statements towards others with regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious or political belief, and so on will not be tolerated by either students or the instructor. Mutual respect is requisite. You will be dismissed from class and not allowed to return until you have had a meeting with the Dean if you are not mindful of the above rules for common courtesy.
### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Last day to add/drop</td>
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<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Annales I Reflection</td>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Annales II Reflection</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Annales III Reflection</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
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<td>Annales IV Reflection</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Prospectus &amp; Bibliography Due</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>ROUGH DRAFT DUE</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
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