LATN 212-01H Vergil's Aeneid

Thomas Strunk
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Latin 212 Vergil’s *Aeneid* – Honors

Dr. Thomas E. Strunk

MWF 11:00–11:50
Spring 2015
Schott 1001

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(or by appointment)

**Objectives and Procedures**

This course focuses on an in-depth reading of Vergil’s *Aeneid*, particularly Books 7-12. In addition to points of Latin syntax, the class will examine matters of scansion, poetics, politics, characterization and plot. We will also work on our presentation and research skills and writing abilities.

The minimum requirement for this course is to have done the translations ahead of time and to be prepared to translate in class and to discuss with intellectual rigor the assigned reading. **Translations must not be written out and 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 Vergil’s *Aeneid* with ease and facility
- demonstrate mastery of the rules of Latin poetry (scansion, figures, etc.)
- increase Latin vocabulary
- utilize research tools for Classical research in digital and analog formats
- present ideas orally for peer and instructor review
- improve college-level writing skills by writing a 6-8 page research paper in collaboration with the instructor on an original idea
- fairly and accurately evaluate the work of others
- apply knowledge gained in the areas of critical thinking and effective communication to other classes
- 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
- to express themselves articulately in writing, orally and with technology
- demonstrate an understanding of the methodology of the humanities

**Texts and Readings**

Assignments and Examinations
Exams: 2 @ 20% each = 40%
Article Summaries: 5 @ 2% each = 10%
Quizzes: 12 @ 1% each = 12%
Research Paper Presentation: 10%
Research Paper: 28% divided as follows – 5% prospectus, 13% rough draft, 10% final draft.

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. There will be no incompletes. Assignments turned in late will be dropped a letter grade for each day they are late.

Article Summaries: You will be assigned five articles to read and summarize. Article summaries must be at least one full page, no longer than two pages typed.

Quizzes: For each book of the *Aeneid* that we read in English, there will be a short 5 minute quiz. These will be done immediately at the start of class and need to be completed within the allotted time frame.

Research Paper Presentation: This will be a presentation of your research paper topic. Bring to class copies for everyone of a 1–page handout with your thesis statement in sentence 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: Your paper must be on a topic from Books 7–12 of the *Aeneid*; papers on Books 1–6 will not be accepted. Beyond that 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: “Vergil and Aeneas” is too big – a somewhat more suitable topic might be “Vergil’s Portrayal of Aeneas in Book 10.” Likewise, “Latin Epic” is also too broad, but there is enough evidence to do a good, brief paper on some aspect of Latin epic. 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. If you want, I can assign you a topic. You must meet with me before your prospectus is due to discuss your topic.

Evaluation, Scope and Format: Your paper will be graded for content, clarity, and accuracy of written expression. Your paper must be between 6-8 double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, one-inch margined pages with page numbers. Your paper should include, as appropriate, footnotes and references in the HAB format and style, which is on the course page. Internet-only sources must be pre-approved.

Schedule: Monday March 16th submit a 1–2 page statement of your intended topic. The prospectus needs to be at least one page long and no more than two pages. Include a
bibliography with a minimum of 5 items that you have already examined relevant to your paper; articles assigned for class do not count. On-line only sources need to be pre-approved. The prospectus will count for 5% of your grade.

**Friday April 17th** 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 13% of your grade.

**Friday May 1** 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 = 74-70
- 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. **NB: There will also be no incompletes.**

**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.

**Schedule**

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