Latin 211 Honors – Cicero’s Orations

MWF 12:00–12:50
Fall 2015

Dr. Thomas E. Strunk
Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00
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Course Description
This course will be focused on the orations of Cicero. We will have three objectives. Primarily we will strive to improve our ability to read and translate Latin. Related to this is a need to gain an appreciation for Cicero as a writer: his style, influence, and genres. Lastly, we will want to become acquainted with the broad outline of the history of the Roman Republic; we will focus on the final one hundred years of the Republic and most narrowly on the events surrounding Cicero’s life.

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. The readings on the schedule must be completed whether we translate all of them or not. All assigned readings are eligible material for exams; do not get behind. 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.

This course fulfills the Oral Communication Flag for the New Core Curriculum, as such there will be a strong emphasis on instruction on rhetoric and public speaking (Cicero’s and yours), oral presentations, and reflection on those presentations. This course is designed to increase your level of comfort and ability to communicate orally. An important part of this process is offering and receiving criticism (in the academic sense of the word) on oral presentations. It is equally important that you are open to the criticism of others and respectful when critiquing others.

This course is part of the Xavier Core Curriculum, which aims to develop people of learning and reflection, integrity and achievement, in solidarity for and with others. It addresses the following core learning objective(s) at the intermediate level: Students recognize and cogently discuss significant questions in the humanities, arts, and the natural and social sciences. This course fulfills the Humanities Elective for the New Core Curriculum and the Literature requirement for the Transition Core Curriculum.

Learning Outcomes: Students who read the assignments, participate in the discussions, and complete the assignments in this course will be able to

• read Cicero’s orations in Latin with ease and facility
• demonstrate mastery of the more complex rules of Latin grammar and syntax
• increase Latin vocabulary
• identify and utilize basic 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 report on one of Cicero’s orations
• fairly and accurately evaluate the work of others
• apply knowledge gained in the areas of critical thinking and effective communication to other classes
• adapt messages in a variety of communication contexts
• organize information effectively
• advocate a supported opinion on complex topics

Texts

Introducing Cicero: A Latin Reader
Wheelock’s Latin Grammar
Supplemental readings on Canvas

Assignments and Examinations

Exams: 3 @ 20% each = 60%
Wheelock Presentations: 2 @ 5% each = 10%
Written Report on Oration of Cicero = 10%
Oral Presentation on Oration of Cicero = 10%
(including a short recitation of the oration in Latin)
Peer Review of Oration of Cicero = 5%
Reflection on Peer Reviews and Video Recording for Oration of Cicero = 5%

Exams: There will be three exams – two mid-terms and a final. Exams must be taken on the date assigned. There will be no make-up exams without a doctor’s note. Assignments turned in late will be dropped a letter grade for each day they are late.

Written Report and Oral presentation on a speech of Cicero: You will select one of Cicero’s speeches from the list provided by me. On your own, read the entire speech in English. Full versions of all of the speeches in English and Latin are available online or in the library. Write a report (5-6 pages + a bibliography) on the speech highlighting its purpose, 2 or 3 major stylistic elements, and the outcome or repercussions. On your assigned report day, you will bring a printed copy of your report, which you will read out loud to the class. The oral presentation of your report must be 10-12 minutes, which is approximately 5-6 pages. You are expected to do research and include Latin examples from the speech to support your stylistic analysis. You are required to bring handouts for your classmates of any passages from Cicero’s speech (in Latin and English) that you use in your report to demonstrate the stylistic analysis. See Canvas for citation guidelines. The report should be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 font with one-inch margins on all sides. Upload a digital copy to Canvas by class time on the day of your report. Please hand in to me the copy you read from in class. You will also need to recite from memory a section of your speech in Latin of at least 10 lines; your selection must be approved by me by the class prior to your presentation. There will be several graded components to this assignment: the written report (10% of course grade), the oral presentation of the report, including a short recitation of the oration in Latin (10% of course grade), written peer review (5% of course grade), and a written reflection on the peer reviews and recording of your presentation (5% of course grade).
Wheelock Chapter Reviews: You will be scheduled to present two 10-minute Wheelock chapter reviews (see chapters on Tentative Schedule). For each you will explain the grammar using a PowerPoint presentation. Additional activities, such as translation of select Sententiae Antiquae, to review the grammar are encouraged, but you only have 10 minutes – plan accordingly. You will best prepare for this assignment by watching me conduct reviews. I will pass around a sign up sheet in class. Note several presentations will be scheduled for the same day. If you feel that you are able to handle more difficult grammar (e.g. participles, conditions), please volunteer. All students are required to see me during office hours or by appointment no later than one day before you are scheduled for your first chapter review for a brief run through of your presentation. You are not required to meet with me before your second chapter review, though may do so if you like.

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.

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

TBD