

LATN 4100/6100 - The Fall of the Roman Republic Spring 2009

Utah State University

Class: MWF 11:30-12:20 in MAIN 323L

Instructor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

Office hrs: MWF 10:30-11:20 & appointment

Dept of History

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Description and Goals: LATN 4100 is an advanced undergraduate course in Latin. LATN 6100 is a master's level course in Latin. This semester we will read from works that recount the events of the Civil War of 50-49 BC, which brought an end to the Roman Republic. Most of our readings will come from Caesar's *Bellum Civile*, but Caesar's narrative will be supplemented with letters to and from Cicero that were written during the war years. To help set the Civil War in its historical context, we will read a historical survey of the Late Republic that focuses on the turbulent period from 133-31 BC, as well as Suetonius' *Life of Caesar*.

The primary goal for the course is to help you read Latin prose with fluidity and good comprehension. In order to achieve that goal, you will be reading as much Latin as possible! Since this is an advanced Latin class, we will be reading an average of one hundred lines per week. This process will not be completely painless, but it is an important part of learning to read Latin fluently.

A secondary goal for the course is to help you understand the historical context in which the Civil War occurred, and why the Republic fell. As a class we will read a history of the period (as mentioned above) and discuss the larger social and political implications of the Civil War.

Required Texts:

Finn, James and Frank Groten Jr., *Res Publica Conquassata* (Wayne State University Press, 1998)

Alan and Greenough, *New Latin Grammar for Schools and Colleges* (Dover Publications, 2006)

Shotter, David, *The Fall of the Roman Republic*, 2nd edition (Routledge, 2005)

Graves, Robert, trans., *Suetonius, The Twelve Caesars* (Penguin Classics 2007)

Structure: There will be **three exams**, approximately one every five weeks. The exams will cover **translation, grammar, and material from the historical text**. The last exam will be held during finals week, but it will not be a cumulative final. There will be no quizzes. Students will be expected to read the chapters of the historical text as assigned and take an active role in the class discussions. Students will also complete one grammatical/historical commentary and one 5-8 page paper, discussed below.

Grading: grades for the course will be determined as follows:

3 Exams	20% each	60%
Class Discussions		10%
1 grammatical/historical commentary		15%
1 paper		15%
		100%

The grading scale will be: A (100-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-88); B (87-83); B- (82-80); and similarly for the C and D range. F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

Makeups: Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).

Grammatical/Historical Commentary : Each student will choose one passage from the textbook (approximately 30 lines long) and write a comprehensive grammatical and historical commentary on it. Students may choose any passage, provided that it is about 30 lines long, and that no other student has chosen the identical passage. The commentary will include a complete explanation of all grammatical and syntactic structures, a running vocabulary list and a historical discussion that sets the passage in its historical context. Your audience will be a third semester Latin student; someone who has been introduced to all the forms of Latin grammar, but who may have limited experience with reading a real Latin text. I hope to use these commentaries with my LATN 3100 class next year. I will plan to do a sample commentary for students to use as a model.

Papers: Each student will draw the name of a prominent Roman from a hat, and write a **5-8 page biography of this man, concentrating on the events of the Civil War years.** What was his position on the crucial issues of the day? Whom did he support? What were his major actions? Why is he well known? The paper will not be simply a biography; it will be partly a biography and partly a narrative of the events of the Civil War from this man's point of view. The Romans who will be the subjects of these papers will not be the most important players (such as Pompey, Caesar, and Cicero), but rather they will come from the second rank of Romans, such as Marcus Petreius, Marcus Antonius, Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, and Marcus Porcius Cato, who played major supporting roles in the events of the Civil War. These papers should be about 5-8 pages in length.

Attendance and Class Participation: Class attendance and participation are **extremely important.** I expect you to **come every day with your translation prepared.** The length of assignments per class does vary, but you should expect to spend one to two hours in preparation for each class. Students will also be **graded on their participation in the class discussions of *The Fall of the Roman Republic*.** I reserve the right to lower your final grade for excessive absences or lack of class participation.

Academic Honesty: **Cheating, plagiarism, or dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class.** If you are having trouble completing class assignments or if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please come and talk with me about it.

This information is available in Braille and large type format upon request.

LATN 4100/6100: TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE SPECIFIED DAY

RPQ = *Res Publica Conquassata* FRR = *The Fall of the Roman Republic*

Week 1

- M 1/5 –Introduction to the class and RPQ 1
 W 1/7 - RPQ 2 and FRR Introduction and Chapter 1
 F 1/9 - **NO CLASS**; Dr. Shapiro at APA

Week 2

- M 1/12 – RPQ 3
 W 1/14 – RPQ 4
 F 1/16 – RPQ 5 and FRR Chap 2

Week 3

- M 1/19 - NO CLASS – MLK Day**
 W 1/21 - RPQ 6
 F 1/23 – RPQ 7

Week 4

- M 1/26 – RPQ 8
 W 1/28 – RPQ 9
 F 1/30 – RPQ 10 and Suetonius, *Life of Caesar*

Week 5

- M 2/2 –RPQ 11
 W 2/4 – FRR Chap 3 and catch up
 F 2/6 - **Exam 1**

Week 6

- M 2/9 – RPQ 12
 W 2/11 – RPQ 13
 F 2/13 –RPQ 14

Week 7

- M 2/16 - **Washington/Lincoln Day - no class**
 T 2/17 - no Monday class (too confusing)
 W 2/18 - RPQ 15 & 16
 F 2/20 - RPQ 17 and FRR Chap 4

Week 8

- M 2/23 - RPQ 18
 W 2/25 - RPQ 19
 F 2/27 - RPQ 20 and FRR Chap 5

Week 9

- M 3/2 - RPQ 21 and **Grammatical/Historical Commentary due**
 W 3/4 - RPQ 22 & 23
 F 3/6 - RPQ 24

SPRING BREAK - March 9-13

Week 10

- M 3/16 - RPQ 25
 W 3/18 - Catch up and FRR Chap 6
 F 3/20 - **Exam 2**

Week 11

- M 3/23 - RPQ 26 & 27
 W 3/25 - RPQ 28
 F 3/27 - RPQ 29 and FRR Chap 7

Week 12

- M 3/30 - **Film: *Julius Caesar***
 W 4/1 - TBA
 F 4/3 - TBA

Week 13

M 4/6 – RPQ 30 and **Paper due**

W 4/8 –RPQ 31

F 4/10 –RPQ 32

Week 14

M 4/13 - RPQ 32

W 4/15 – RPQ 33 & 34

F 4/17 –RPQ 35, 36, & 37

Week 15

M 4/20 – RPQ 38 & 39

W 4/22 –RPQ 40 & 41

F 4/24 – RPQ 42 & 43

Exam Week: April 27 - May 1

M 4/27 - Exam 3 - 9:30 - 11:30 AM