

LATN 4860

Latin Pedagogy

Spring 2011

Utah State University

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

Instructor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

Office hrs: MWF 10:30-11:20 and by appointment

Email: Susan.O.Shapiro@usu.edu

Dept of History

Office: Main 323D

Office Phone: 797-2091

Description and Goals: This class is both an advanced Latin class and a Latin pedagogy class. **As such the class has three distinct goals. The primary goal for the class 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!

A secondary goal for the course is to help you understand the historical context in which the Civil War occurred (49-44 BC), and why the Republic fell. Our textbook, *Res Publica Conquassata*, traces the events of the Civil War between Caesar, Pompey, and their supporters, through reading selections from primary documents written by the participants themselves. These include selections from Caesar's *Bellum Civile*, Cicero's letters, and the letters of some of Cicero's correspondents. As we translate and discuss these texts, we will strive to understand the major events of the Civil War and its larger political and social implications.

Last -- but not least -- this class will help prepare students to teach Latin at the high school and junior high school levels. During the semester we will read several essays on education; some will be on Latin pedagogy while others will concern current trends in education as a whole. The essays on Latin pedagogy will come mainly from Richard LaFleur's book, *Latin for the 21st Century*; now out of print. We will have weekly classes discussions on these articles (usually on Fridays). In addition, students will write two short papers on these articles.

Students will also examine several high school Latin textbooks and write a short critique, comparing their strengths and weakness. Finally, at the end of the semester students will present a short (15 min.) lesson on a point of Latin grammar or syntax, and they will hand in a lesson plan for that lesson.

At the end of this course, students will have done some serious thinking about some of today's key issues in education and Latin pedagogy, and they will be well on their way to becoming first rate Latin teachers.

Class Format: On Mondays and Wednesdays we will translate and discuss selections from RPC. On Fridays we will discuss articles on education and Latin pedagogy. This format should provide a good balance of activities and enable us to achieve the three goals we have set for ourselves this semester

Required Texts:

Finn and Groten, *Res Publica Conquassata: Readings on the Fall of the Roman Republic* (Wayne State University Press, 1998).

Bennett, *New Latin Grammar* (Bolchazy-Carducci, 1994).

C. Lewis, *An Elementary Latin Dictionary* (Oxford U Press) - **Recommended**

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

2 Short Papers	10% each	20%
1 Long Paper		15%
2 Latin Exams	20 % each	40%
1 Grammar Lesson & Lesson Plan		15%
Latin Textbook Critique		10%
		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.

Short Papers: During the semester we will read 8-10 articles on education and Latin pedagogy. Six of those articles will come from Richard LaFleur's book, *Latin for the 21st Century*; the others will come from other sources. All of the articles will be provided as xeroxed handouts. **Students will write two short (6-8 pp.) papers on these articles during the semester. All students will write one paper on articles #6 and 7; the other paper will be written on an article or articles of the student's choice.** The papers will be due on the day that the article(s) on which the papers are written will be discussed in class. A suggested format for the short papers will be provided.

Long Papers: Students will write an 8-10 page research paper in which they place the events of 49-44 BC within the context of the tumultuous events of the Late Republic (133-31 BC). **Students must choose a specific topic for their paper, but they may choose any topic that fits this general description.** Paper topics will be due approximately two weeks before the papers are due.

Latin Textbook Critique: During the semester students will read three to five textbooks for high school Latin, and they will write a short critique (5-8 pages) of those textbooks, assessing their strengths and weaknesses. Students may choose these textbooks from Dr. Shapiro's Latin textbook collection. Since that collection is rather limited, however, the critiques will be due at various times throughout the semester to give each student the opportunity to examine a variety of books. A suggested format for these critiques will be provided.

Grammar Lesson and Lesson Plan: Near the end of the semester, the students will prepare a short (15 minute) lesson on Latin grammar and present it to the class. The students will also hand in a detailed lesson plan at that time.

Attendance: Regular class attendance and enthusiastic participation are expected at this level of Latin study. I reserve the right to lower a student's final grade for excessive absences, poor preparation, or lack of participation.

Makeups: Makeup exams will not normally be given. Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).

Academic Honesty: As students, teachers, and scholars, we are engaged in the pursuit of truth, and this endeavor demands **high standards of personal honesty**. Membership in the academic and professional community requires a **trust based upon integrity** of the written and spoken word. Thus, **cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class**. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or what constitutes unauthorized assistance, please do not hesitate to ask me.

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

Final Note: Because every class is to some extent a work in progress, **this syllabus is subject to change**. Students are responsible for incorporating into this syllabus any and all changes that have been announced in class.

LATN 4860: TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE SPECIFIED DAY

Week 1

M 1/10 - Introduction
 W 1/12 - RPC 1
 F 1/14 - RPC 2

Week 2

M 1/17 - MLK Day - no class
 W 1/19 - RPC 3
 F 1/21 - Article 1: "The Great Latin Debate: The Futility of Utility?"

Week 3

M 1/24 - RPC 4 & 5
 W 1/26 - RPC 6
 F 1/28 - Article 2: "Aliquid Semper Novi: New Challenges, New Approaches"

Week 4

M 1/31 - RPC 7
 W 2/2 - RPC 8
 F 2/4 - Article 3: To Be Determined
 Latin Textbook Critique due for _____

Week 5

M 2/7 - RPC 9
 W 2/9 - RPC 10
 F 2/11 - Article 4: "Grammar Translation and High-School Latin"

Week 6

M 2/14 - RPC 11 & 12
 W 2/16 - RPC 12 & 13
 F 2/18 - Article 5: "Using the Reading Approach in Secondary Schools"
 Latin Textbook Critique due for _____

Week 7

- M 12/21 - no class - Washington/Lincoln Day
 T 2/22 - no Monday class (too confusing)
 W 2/23 - Exam 1 on RPC
 F 2/25 - Article 6: "The Grammar-Translation Approach to College Latin"

Week 8

- M 2/28 - RPC 14
 W 3/2 - RPC 15
 F 3/4 - Article 7: "Toward Fluency & Accuracy: A Reading Approach to College Latin" **Short Papers Due**

SPRING BREAK - March 7 - 11

Week 9

- M 3/14 - RPC 16 & 17
 W 3/16 - RPC 18
 F 3/18 - Article 8: To Be Determined
 Latin Textbook Critique due for _____

Week 10

- M 3/21 - RPC 19
 W 3/23 - RPC 20
 F 3/25 - **No Class: Students will watch the film "Waiting for Superman"**
Time and place to be determined.

Week 11

- M 3/28 - RPC 21
 W 3/30 - RPC 21 & 22
 F 4/1 - Discussion of "Waiting for Superman" **Happy Triskaidekaphobia Day!**
 Latin Textbook Critique due for _____

Week 12

M 4/4 -RPC 32 (Note break in sequence)
 W 4/6 - RPC 32
 F 4/8 - RPC 32 & 33

Week 13

M 4/11 - RPC 33, 34 & 35
 W 4/13 - RPC 36 & 37
 F 4/15 - RPC 38 **Paper Topics Due**

Week 14

M 4/18 - RPC 39
 W 4/20 - Grammar Lesson Presentations
 F 4/22 - Grammar Lesson Presentations

Week 15

M 4/25 - RPC 40
 W 4/27 - RPC 41
 F 4/29 -RPC 42 **Long Papers due**

Exam Week: May 2 - 5

M 5/2 - **Exam 2 on RPC @ 9:30 - 11:20**