

1. CLT 3930: Conspiracy Theory Ancient and Modern

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2. Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays Period 6; Thursdays Period 4

3. Course Objectives/Goals:

Roman history is riddled with conspiracies. So are our newsfeeds and the pages of the New York Times. In this class, we will develop a method for understanding conspiracies and conspiracy theories. First we will examine conspiracy theory as a mode of discourse, a way of approaching the world, and a response to political life. Then we will apply our theories to individual test cases from ancient Roman history: the Catilinarian conspiracy, the Bacchanalian affair, the Pisonian conspiracy, and conspiracies in Ancient Athens. The course concludes with an examination of the assassination of Julius Caesar.

4. Weekly Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

T August 20	Introduction to Conspiracy Theory
H August 22	Introduction to Conspiracy Theory
T August 27	Popper: Open Society and its Enemies
H August 29	Popper: Open Society and its Enemies
T September 3	Labor Day
H September 5	Hofstadter: Paranoid Style in American Politics
T September 10	Hofstadter: Paranoid Style in American Politics
H September 12	Analysis of Popper and Hofstadter
T September 17	Livy Bacchanalian Affair
H September 19	Area 51 Day: Jodi Dean
T September 24	Keeley 1999
H September 26	Cicero Catilinarians
T October 1	Clarke 2002
H October 3	Sallust Bellum Catilinae
T October 8	Neel 2017
H October 10	Analysis of the Catilinarian Conspiracy
T October 15	Basham 2003
H October 17	Tacitus, Germanicus
T October 22	Coady 2007
H October 24	Tacitus, Great Fire of 64 C.E.
T October 29	Tacitus, Pisonian Conspiracy
H October 31	Analysis of Tacitus
T November 5	Harmodius and Aristogeiton
H November 7	Mutilation of Hermes

T November 12	Conspiracy Research: Bogus v. Bonafide
H November 14	Matthew Dentith Lecture
T November 19	Read Dando Collins, Ides of March Part 1
H November 21	Read Dando Collins, Ides of March Part 2
T November 26	Presentations
H November 28	Thanksgiving
T December 3	Final Assignment

5. **Evaluation:** 5 written assignments each worth 20% of grade, due on September 12, 24, October 20, 31, and December 3.
6. **Requirements** for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
7. **Students with disabilities** requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
8. **Textbooks:** All readings are provided in Canvas except for the following:
 - Dando-Collins, Stephen. 2010. *Caesar's Murder and the War for Rome*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons. REQUIRED.
 - Damon, Cynthia, trans. 2012. *Tacitus: Annals*. Penguin. or any approved translation
 - Woodman, A. J., trans. 2007. *Sallust: Catiline's War, et al.* or any approved translation
9. Information on current UF policies for **assigning grade points** can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>
10. **Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback** on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>
11. There is no **materials and supplies fee** for this course.
12. **Preferred method for communication** regarding the course is vepagan@ufl.edu. To resolve technical issues, contact <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>.
13. **Critical dates** are given in 5, above.

14. Class demeanor: I expect professional appearance and attitude at all times. Be on time; put away all electronic devices; do not talk while others are talking.

15. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (Links to an external site.) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

16. CAMPUS RESOURCES

a. Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

b. Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honorcode-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

17. This course does not require clearance for the use of human subjects.