SEMINAR DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The class will consist of a close reading of selected passages of Petronius’ *Satyricon*, with special emphasis on the so-called *Cena Trimalchionis*. Introductory classes will deal with issues related to the identity of the author, the genre of the ancient novel and the *fabula Milesia*, as well as the problematic tradition of the extant sections of the text; larger issues as the cultural and literary context of the *Satyricon* will be considered as well. The core of the class, however, will be the direct reading of the text, the study of its linguistic peculiarities and the analysis of intertextual relations with its models.

Attendance is mandatory: more than one unexcused class absence will result in a deduction from the participation portion of the course grade. Students will be expected to translate when called upon, as well as participate in class discussions, raising pertinent and interesting points. In this regard, it is necessary to read and translate primary readings prior to come to class; for each relevant subject addressed in class, in addition, I will suggest one or more secondary sources, whose reading is not mandatory but useful to get prepared for the subsequent discussion.

This class is intended to:

- Gain an understanding of Petronius’ work, on the linguistic, stylistic and literary ground;
- Improve students’ translation and analysis skills;
- Enhance familiarity with the culture and politics of the Neronian age.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS


ATTENDANCE, POLICIES, AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

You are required to do your own work at all times and to abide by the university’s Honor Pledge: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Grade**

Your grading will be based, first of all, on your perfect class attendance (15%) plus your active participation in the proposed discussions (20%): you are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to engage in an informed and critical discussion, based on the suggested secondary readings. Three cumulative exams (20% + 25% + 20%) will evaluate your understanding of Petronius’ language and style, as well as your familiarity with the larger issues discussed during the previous weeks. In each exam will be two short texts to translate (one from your assignment readings, and one at sight), accompanied by questionnaires about issues of language, style and literary interpretation discussed in previous classes.

- **Participation:** 35% (Attendance: 15% + active participation in the discussion: 20%)
- **I exam:** 20% (on materials from weeks 3-6)
- **II exam:** 25% (on materials from weeks 8-11)
- **III exam:** 20% (on materials from weeks 13-15)

**Grading scale**

- **A:** 93-100
- **A-:** 90-92
- **B+:** 87-89
- **B:** 83-86
- **B-:** 80-82
- **C+:** 77-79
- **C:** 73-76
- **C-:** 70-72
- **D+:** 67-69
- **D:** 63-66
- **D-:** 60-62
- **E:** below 60

**Online course evaluation process**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).
PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

N.B.: The prescribed primary readings are mandatory and should be complete by the beginning of each class meeting. The suggested secondary readings are optional, but recommended to be able to actively participate in the discussion.

Week 1: Introductions. The Author and the Genre.

Readings:
Tacitus, *Annals* 16, 17-18 (in English)
Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* 37, 20 (in English)

Secondary readings:

Week 2: The history of Petronius' text

Readings:
Servius, *Commentary to Vergil's Aeneid* 3, 57 (in English)
Sidonius Apollinaris, *Poems* 23, 155-157 (in English)

Secondary readings:

Week 3: The causes of corrupted eloquence

Readings:
Petronius, 1-4 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

Week 4: The feast of Trimalchio

Readings:
Petronius, 27-29 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:
**Week 5:** Trimalchio's appetizers

Readings:
Petronius, 31-33 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:
*Cena*, *Meals* and *Triclinium* entries from Brill’s *New Pauly* (available online).

**Week 6:** The Zodiac at the dinner table

Readings:
Petronius, 35 and 39 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

**Week 7:** Exam 1 (on materials from weeks 3-6)

**Week 8:** A portrait of Trimalchio and Fortunata

Readings:
Petronius, 37-38 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

**Week 9:** *Convivarum sermones*

Readings:
Petronius, 42; 45; 47 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

**Week 10:** A Platonic recall?

Readings:
Petronius, 65-66 (in Latin)
Plato, *Symposion* 212c-213d; 220d-e (in English)

Secondary readings:
Week 11: *Servi sunt...*

Readings:
- Petronius, 70-71 (in Latin)
- Seneca, *Letters to Lucilius*, 47, 1 (in Latin)

Week 12: Exam 2 (on materials from weeks 8-11)

Week 13: The end of the party

Readings:
- Petronius, 76-78 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

Week 14: Petronius’ short poems

Readings:
- Petronius, 14.2; 15.9; 34.10; 55.3; 89.

Secondary readings:

Week 15: The tale of the Widow of Ephesus

Readings:
- Petronius, 111-112 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

Week 16: Exam 3 (on materials from weeks 13-15)