

**LNW 6933: LUCRETIUS**  
Spring 2014 Dr. Velvet L. Yates  
Thursdays 8:00 p.m. (EST)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

115A Dauer Hall, office hours W, F 10:30-12:30. 352-273-3703  
[vyates@ufl.edu](mailto:vyates@ufl.edu)

AdobeConnect virtual classroom link:

<http://uf-classics-dl.adobeconnect.com/lucretius>

TEXTS:

*Lucretius: De Rerum Natura Book I*, P.M. Brown. Bristol, 1995.

*Lucretius: De Rerum Natura Book III*, E.J. Kenney, Cambridge 1977.

*A Presocratic Reader*, P. Curd, Hackett, 1995.

*The Swerve*, S. Greenblatt, W.W. Norton, 2012.

recommended: translation of entire poem, such as R.E. Latham (Penguin).

optional: William Augustus Merrill's commentary; available as free ebook (see link in Sakai).

The class will consist of a close reading of Books I and III of the *De Rerum Natura*. Larger issues such as the philosophical/cultural context of the poem, the history of its transmission, and its authorship will be considered as well. Attendance is mandatory; more than one unexcused class absence will result in a deduction from the participation portion of the course grade.

GRADE:

Participation:	45%
Attendance/class participation:	25%
Discussion board posts:	20%
First exam:	25% (translation/scansion of Book I, plus essays)
Second exam:	30% (translation/scansion of Book III, plus essays)

**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

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>. 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>.

#### CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Regular attendance is vital; 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 and scan when called upon, as well as participate in class discussions (via live chat board or verbal discussion). An asynchronous discussion board will be set up for each week's class to field questions or provide discussion topics. Students must submit a post for the weekly discussion topic, which will be announced in the previous week's class.

#### SAKAI INSTRUCTIONS:

To log on to Sakai:

- On E-learning page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>), click 'e-Learning Login'; enter Gatorlink userid and password
- at top of screen, look for LNW 6933: Lucretius, Spring 2014; click
- click 'Discussions' for Discussion Boards
- click 'Syllabus' for course syllabus
- click 'Resources' for additional materials

#### PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

WEEK 1      JAN. 9

Introductions.

Assignment for Jan. 16: translate and scan invocation (I.1-43); read "*horror vacui* in Lucretian biography" (pdf under 'Resources' in Sakai)

WEEK 2      JAN. 16      [WEEKS 2-8: BOOK I]

Assignment for class Jan. 23: translate I.50-145; scan first 20 lines; *The Swerve* chapters 1-3; discussion board post

WEEK 3      JAN. 23

Assignment for class Jan. 30: translate I.146-270; scan first 20 lines; *Presocratics*: Parmenides; Zeno of Elea; Atomism: Leucippus and Democritus; discussion board post

WEEK 4      JAN. 30

Assignment for class Feb. 6: translate I.271-482; scan first 20 lines; read ['Epicurus' entry from Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#); discussion board post

- WEEK 5 FEB. 6  
Assignment for class Feb. 13: translate I.483-634; scan first 20 lines; *The Swerve* chapters 4-6; discussion board post
- WEEK 6 FEB. 13  
Assignment for class Feb. 20: skim I.635-920; scan first 20 lines; *Presocratics*: Heraclitus; Empedocles; Anaxagoras; discussion board post
- WEEK 7 FEB. 20  
Assignment for class Feb. 27: translate I.921-1117; scan first 20 lines
- WEEK 8 FEB. 27 EXAM 1 (DUE 3/2 MIDNIGHT)  
Assignment for class March 13: translate III.1-205; scan first 20 lines; *Presocratics*: Pythagoras and Pythagoreanism; discussion board post
- WEEK 9 MARCH 6 SPRING BREAK
- WEEK 10 MARCH 13 WEEKS 10-14: BOOK III  
Assignment for class March 20: translate III.206-415; scan first 20 lines; *The Swerve* chapters 7-9; discussion board post
- WEEK 11 MARCH 20  
Assignment for class March 27: translate III.416-623; scan first 20 lines; *The Swerve* chapter 10-11; discussion board post
- WEEK 12 MARCH 27  
Assignment for class April 3: translate III.624-829; scan first 20 lines; 'makeup' readings, if behind schedule; discussion board post
- WEEK 13 APRIL 3  
Assignment for class April 10: translate III.830-1094; scan first 20 lines
- WEEK 14 APRIL 10 EXAM 2 (DUE 4/13 MIDNIGHT)  
Extra credit assignment for April 17: class project on Diogenes of Oenoanda
- WEEK 15 APRIL 17 [excused religious absence]  
Discussion: Diogenes of Oenoanda  
[CLASSES END APRIL 23]