

1. CLT 3930: Conspiracy Theory Ancient and Modern

Victoria E. Pagán, Professor of Classics, 115C Dauer Hall, 352-273-3696, vepagan@ufl.edu

2. Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 11:30 am-12:30 pm, and by appointment

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:

Week 1	Introduction to Conspiracy Theory
	Popper: Open Society and its Enemies
Week 2	Harmodius and Aristogeiton
	Mutilation of Hermes
Week 3	Hofstadter: Paranoid Style in American Politics
Week 4	Analysis of Popper and Hofstadter
Week 5	Livy Bacchanalian Affair
Week 6	Keeley 1999 and Clarke 2002
Week 7	Cicero Catilinarians
Week 8	Sallust Bellum Catilinae
	Neel 2017
Week 9	Analysis of the Catilinarian Conspiracy
Week 10	Basham 2003
Week 11	Tacitus, Germanicus
Week 12	Coady 2007
Week 13	Tacitus, Great Fire of 64 C.E.
Week 14	Tacitus, Pisonian Conspiracy
Week 15	Conclusions

5. Evaluation: 5 written assignments each worth 20% of grade, due on September 16, 30, October 21, November 4, and December 9.

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:

- 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
- Butter, M. 2021. *The Nature of Conspiracy Theories*. Polity Press.

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.

Please be advised: Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voice recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials by students or any other party is prohibited.

