

LNW 6225: PETRONIUS  
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Biagio Santorelli

## 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

1. M. Heseltin, *Petronius* – W.H.D. Rouse, *Seneca, Apocolocyntosis*, Cambridge MA (The Loeb Classical Library), 1961.
2. G. Schmeling, *A Commentary on the Satyricon of Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2011.
3. E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001.

## 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>.

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/>.

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>. 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>.

## 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:

*The Identity of the Protagonists*, in E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001, pp. 39-43.  
*Characterization*, in E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001, pp. 49-53.

### **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:

*The Lost Early Books*, in E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001, pp. 43-49.  
*Petronius*, in L.D. Reynolds (ed.), *Texts and Transmission. A Survey of Latin Classics*, Oxford-New York 1986, pp. 295-300.

### **Week 3:** The causes of corrupted eloquence

#### Readings:

Petronius, 1-4 (in Latin)

#### Secondary readings:

*Sophistopolis, or the world of Aristeus*, in D.A. Russell, *Greek Declamation*, Cambridge 1983, pp. 21-39.  
*The Mythomaniac Narrator and the Hidden Author*, in G.B. Conte, *The hidden Author. An Interpretation of Petronius's Satyricon*, Berkeley-Los Angeles 1996, pp. 1-36.

### **Week 4:** The feast of Trimalchio

#### Readings:

Petronius, 27-29 (in Latin)

#### Secondary readings:

*The Feast of Trimalchio* (i), in E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001, pp. 72-82.

## **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:

K. F. C. Rose – J. P. Sullivan, *Trimalchio's Zodiac Dish*, in: *The Classical Quarterly* 18 (1968), pp.180-184.

B. Baldwin, *A Note on Trimalchio's Zodiac Dish*, in: *The Classical Quarterly* 20 (1970), p. 364.

T. W. Richardson, *A Further Note on Trimalchio's Zodiac Dish*, in: *The Classical Quarterly* 22 (1972), p. 149.

## **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:

*Fortunata*, in E. Auerbach, *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*, Berne 1946 (Eng. tr. Princeton 1953), cap. 2.

## **Week 9:** *Convivarum sermones*

### Readings:

Petronius, 42; 45; 47 (in Latin)

### Secondary readings:

B. Boyce, *The Language of the Freedmen in Petronius' Cena Trimalchionis*, Leiden 1991, cap. 3: *Language and Characterization of the Freedmen*, pp. 76-102, in part. *Trimalchio*, pp. 94-102.

## **Week 10:** A Platonic recall?

### Readings:

Petronius, 65-66 (in Latin)

Plato, *Symposion* 212c-213d; 220d-e (in English)

Horace, *Satires*, 2, 8, 1-15 (in English).

### Secondary readings:

A. Cameron, *Petronius and Plato*, in: *The Classical Quarterly* 19 (1969), p. 367.

G. Schmeling, *Battle of Banquets*, in: *Materiali e discussioni per l'analisi dei testi classici* 44 (2000), pp. 217-220.

**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:

*Overview of the Cena*, in E. Courtney, *A Companion to Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2001, pp. 123-126.

**Week 14:** Petronius' short poems

Readings:

Petronius, 14.2; 15.9; 34.10; 55.3; 89.

Secondary readings:

*Poems in the Satyrিকা*, in G. Schmeling, *A Commentary on the Satyrিকা of Petronius*, Oxford-New York 2011, pp. xxxviii-xlv.

**Week 15:** The tale of the Widow of Ephesus

Readings:

Petronius, 111-112 (in Latin)

Secondary readings:

S. J. Harrison, *The Milesian Tales and the Roman Novel*, in *Groningen Commentaries on Apuleius IX*, 1995, pp. 61-73.

R.E. Colton, *The Story of the Widow of Ephesus in Petronius and La Fontaine*, in: *The Classical Journal* 71 (1975), pp. 35-52.

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