

LNW 3360: Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis*  
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Biagio Santorelli

## CLASS DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The class will consist of a close reading of Seneca's *Apocolocyntosis*, one of the all-time most brilliant examples of political *pamphlet*. Introductory classes will deal with issues related to the biography of the author and his historical context as well as the genre of the *Satura Menippaea*; larger issues as the cultural and literary background of the Julio-Claudian age will be considered as well, with appropriate references to the historical works of Tacitus and Suetonius. 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 useful to get prepared for the subsequent discussion.

This class is intended to:

- Gain an understanding of Seneca's work, on the linguistic, stylistic and literary ground;
- Improve students' translation and analysis skills;
- Enhance familiarity with the culture and politics of the Claudian age.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. M. Heseltin, *Petronius* – W.H.D. Rouse, *Seneca, Apocolocyntosis*, Cambridge MA (The Loeb Classical Library), 1961.
2. P. T. Eden, *Seneca, Apocolocyntosis*, Cambridge 1984.
3. J. C. Rolfe, *Suetonius* (vol. II), Cambridge MA (The Loeb Classical Library) 1997<sup>2</sup>.
4. D. Hurley, *Suetonius, Divus Claudius*, Cambridge 2011.

## 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 (25%): 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% + 20% + 20%) will evaluate your understanding of Seneca's 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 (from your assignment readings), accompanied by questionnaires about issues of language, style and literary interpretation discussed in previous classes.

Participation:	40% (Attendance: 15% + active participation in the discussion: 25%)
I exam:	20% (on materials from weeks 1-5)
II exam:	20% (on materials from weeks 6-10)
III exam:	20% (on materials from weeks 11-15)

## 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

### **Week 1:**

- M Introduction. Seneca and the emperor Claudius
- W The literary background: Roman satire and *Satura Menippea*
- F The title and the date of composition

### **Week 2:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 1
- W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 2
- F Reading of Suetonius, *Claudius* 45; Tacitus, *Annales* 12, 69

### **Week 3:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 3
- W Reading of Tac. *Ann.* 11, 24-25
- F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 4, 1, 1-24

### **Week 4:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 4, 1, 25 - 4,3
- W Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 44; Tac. *Ann.* 12, 66-67
- F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 5, 1-3; Suet. *Cl.* 30

### **Week 5:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 5, 4; Homer, *Odyssey* 1, 158-177; 9, 39-61 (in English)
- W Exam I (on materials from weeks 1-5)
- F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 6

### **Week 6:**

- M Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 2
- W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 7, 1-2
- F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 7, 3-5

### **Week 7:**

- M Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 14-15
- W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 8
- F Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 32

### **Week 8:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 9, 1-3
- W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 9, 4-6
- F Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 11

### **Week 9:**

- M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 10
- W Reading of Suet. *Augustus* 86-87
- F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 11, 1-3; Homer, *Iliad* 15, 14-24; 1, 586-594 (in English)

### **Week 10:**

- M Reading of Tac. *Ann.* 11, 37-38

W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 11, 4-6; Catullus, *Poems*, 3 (in English)  
F Exam II (on materials from weeks 6-10)

**Week 11:**

M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 12, 1-2  
W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 12, 3  
F Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 17; 5; 33.

**Week 12:**

M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 13, 1-3; Horace, *Odes*, 2, 13 (in English)  
W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 13, 4-6  
F Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 28; Sen., *Consolation to Polybius*, 6, 5

**Week 13:**

M Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 14, 1-2  
W Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 29; Tac. *Ann.* 13, 43  
F Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 14, 3-4

**Week 14:**

M Reading of Ps-Seneca, *Octavia*, 614-631; Hom. *Il.* 11, 576-600.  
W Reading of Sen. *Apoc.* 15  
F Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 8-9

**Week 15:**

M Reading of Suet. *Cl.* 41-42  
W Conclusions  
F Exam III (on materials from weeks 11-15)