

LNW 3920: Studies in Latin Literature

The Poet and the Politicians: Power and Libertas in the Late Roman Republic through Catullus, Cicero and Caesar



Time and Location

M W F period 9 (4:05-4:55 PM)

DAU 0342 (Dauer hall) OR online (Zoom)

Contact Information

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Office hours (on zoom): M 2-3 PM; F 5-6 PM and by appointment

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Course objectives and goals

This course will offer an overview of the fascinating Late Republic and Civil Wars period through the personal relationships of Cicero, Caesar and Catullus, three exceptional writers and public figures. How does a poet address politicians and rulers? How do rulers react to criticism? Through the concept of *libertas* which translates as freedom from slavery, political freedom but also freedom of speech pushed to the point of insulting bluntness, we will explore the political and military history of this troubled era as well as its intellectual debates and interpersonal relationships.

The core of the class will be the direct reading and translation of selected passages of prose and poetry. Through an in-depth study of the texts we will work to advance your skills in reading, translating and interpreting, in order to prepare you for further studies in Latin language, literature and civilization. Your analysis of *libertas* and of its various antagonists will also bring about new perspectives on present-day debates and burning issues.

Prerequisites / Credits

Prerequisites: one 2000-level Latin course, advanced placement or equivalent high school study.

3 credits. Can be repeated with a change in content up to 6 credits.

Textbooks

- M. Balme – J. Morwood, *Oxford Latin Reader*, Oxford 1997 [required]
- H. Allen – J. B. Greenough, *New Latin Grammar* (any edition) [optional]
- C. Traupman – *New College Latin & English Dictionary* (any edition) [optional]

Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

N.B.: For safety reasons, the first week of classes will take place online for everybody.

Week 1	Jan. 11, 13, 15	Introduction: who were Cicero, Caesar & Catullus?
Week 2	Jan. 20, 22	Catullus: sexual freedom or poetic license?
Week 3	Jan. 25, 27 , 29	The Clodia affairs in Catullus and Cicero; Quiz 1
Week 4	Feb. 1, 3, 5	Freedom of speech and obscenity in poetry (Catullus; Horace, <i>Satires</i> , l.4)
Week 5	Feb. 8, 10, 12	Caesar and free speech: visions of the Gallic War in Catullus, Cicero and Caesar; Quiz 2
Week 6	Feb. 15, 17, 19	Caesar, <i>Gallic War</i>
Week 7	Feb. 22, 24 , 26	The Civil War: a war for freedom or for personal power? Caesar, <i>Civil War</i> ; Quiz 3
Week 8	Mar. 1, 3, 5	Cicero's letters during the Civil War
Week 9	Mar. 8, 10 , 12	Review; Sight translation exercise; Midterm exam
Week 10	Mar. 15, 17, 19	Cicero's letters during the Civil War
Week 11	Mar. 22, 26	Caesar's assassination; Quiz 4
Week 12	Mar. 29, 31, Apr. 2	Political freedom: <i>libertas</i> , <i>licentia</i> & <i>tyrannis</i> Cicero, <i>De Republica</i>
Week 13	Apr. 5, 7, 9	Livy, Cicero's assassination; Quiz 5
Week 14	Apr. 12, 14, 16	Cicero, Caesar and Catullus's thoughts on writing
Week 15	Apr. 19, 21	Review; final reflections on <i>libertas</i> ; Final exam

* Jan. 18 is a holiday; Mar. 24 as well.

Technological Instructions and Online Participation

- Canvas site: once you log into E-learning (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>), you should see CLT 3123 listed under your courses (after you have registered for the class).

- In person students are required to bring a laptop with a webcam and headphones in order to participate to discussions with the online students.

- The Zoom link to connect to the class will be available on the Canvas site. Make sure you locate it before the first class.

Log in 10 minutes before the class to make sure that your real name appears and that your audio and video work. **You will be required to keep your video on during the length of the class, mute your microphone when you are not speaking, use the "raise your hand" button to be allowed to speak.** You can use the chat box at any time. Focus and participation are required throughout the classes.

- Technology: a webcam is required and a headset microphone is recommended for this class. Students using their device's built in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

- Technical difficulties: make sure you have a good internet connection. For in class problems with sound, checking your audio settings in zoom usually works. For issues with Canvas, see the E-Learning help page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>) or contact the UF Help Desk (helpdesk@ufl.edu).

- 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 **for this session only**. 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.

Covid-19 safety measures for in-person students

- In-person students must be tested and cleared to return to campus before coming to class. If not, they will be asked to leave.
- In-person students must wear a mask at all times (over the nose and the chin); neck gaiters, bandanas and scarfs are not masks.
- In class, respect physical distancing and use the provided hand sanitizer.
- If you are not sure whether you are sick or not, get tested and do not come to class but **log in on zoom** until you receive the test result.

Course requirements and grades

Students will be expected to participate actively in class, and especially to translate and discuss texts voluntarily, as well as join in partner or group activities. In this regard, it is necessary to read and translate the assigned texts prior to come to class. You will also need to review Latin grammar and learn new vocabulary regularly. In order to foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum.

Your grades will be based, first of all, on two exams (midterm and final). In addition, 5 quizzes will be administered during the course (the lowest quiz grade will be dropped). The quizzes and exams will include vocabulary, grammar, translation and commentary. Every week there will also be a 5-minute vocabulary test. Finally, there will be one 15-minute oral presentation (you will translate and comment on a short text).

- Midterm exam (Oct. 26) = 14 %
- 5 quizzes, each = 9 % (except the lowest grade which will be dropped)
- Oral presentation = 14 %
- Attendance, homework and participation = 11%
- Vocabulary tests = 11%
- Final exam (Dec. 9) = 14 %

Class attendance and make-up works

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Make-up examinations are rarely given and only for extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, such as a grave illness. You must notify me in advance if possible and at the latest within 24 hours of a missed exam in order to arrange a makeup. I must have written documentation for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test.

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory.

More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized by five points for each subsequent unexcused absence. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/3 of an absence.

ADA requirements

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.

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

Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

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/>.

Critical dates for quizzes and exams

- January 27: Quiz 1
- February 12: Quiz 2
- February 24: Quiz 3
- March 10: Midterm exam
- March 26: Quiz 4
- April 9: Quiz 5
- April 21: Final exam

Honesty policy

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>) 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 in this class.

Campus Resources

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/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@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-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>



Cicero Denounces Catiline, by Cesare Macari (1888)