

CLA 6805 Classical Traditions: Roman Stoicism
Spring 2022

Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 p.m. EST in Zoom (see 'Zoom Conferences' in Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Velvet L. Yates

Email: vyates@ufl.edu (or Canvas mail)

Office Hours by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To gain an appreciation of ancient Stoicism and the unique developments of Roman Stoicism, using both primary and secondary sources. Students will also practice applying Stoic philosophy to contemporary situations.

TEXTBOOKS

REQUIRED:

Cicero: On Moral Ends, ed. Julia Annas, Cambridge, 7th printing 2011.

Seneca: Letters on Ethics, Margaret Graver and A.A. Long, Chicago 2017.

The Inner Citadel: The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, Pierre Hadot, Harvard 2001.

ALSO: We'll be translation projects for Seneca *Epistulae* 65, 88, 114 (on both the Master's and PhD reading lists), and maybe parts of the *Apocolocyntosis* (on the PhD reading list). There will also be some background readings from *The Stoics* (2nd ed.) by F.H. Sandbach, pdf's of which I will post in Canvas.

TECHNOLOGY

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.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

1. Please give the class your full attention for the full meeting. Let me know ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict for a particular class, and we can accommodate you (and not deduct from the attendance grade). If you do need to leave the class for a short period to attend to something (like a small child), that's fine - just let me know (by e.g. a private message in Zoom).
2. The weekly homework assignment must be uploaded in Canvas by midnight Monday. Late homework will be accepted only with a very good reason.
3. There will be two short translation assignments, a 'pop Stoicism' blog presentation, and a final paper or project in addition to the regular weekly readings and discussions. On all work submitted for credit, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
4. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to

share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

5. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

CAMPUS RESOURCES (some of these won't apply if you're outside Gainesville)

Health and Wellness:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

GRADING See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> on grading policies.

- 30% Attendance and participation (incl. weekly essays).
Weekly essay: there will be one or more prompts, based on the assigned readings for the week, to which you will respond with **a short, thoughtful, and informed essay (recommended max 500 words), due in Canvas by midnight Mon. before the Tues. class.** Your essay will form an important part of the class discussion, so be prepared to talk about it.
- 10% Translation presentation #1
For the two translation presentations, the 3 Seneca letters (and possibly *Apocolocyntosis*) will be divided up evenly among the students. Your presentation should answer this question: If you were assigning this Latin passage to your students, what aids would you give them?
- 10% Translation presentation #2
- 15% 'pop' Stoicism blog, video, or podcast:
Stoicism, as a practical guide to living, is a bit trendy these days! Reach out to a non-specialist audience to give your Stoic spin on a current topic, e.g. would the *sapiens* get the Covid vaccines? Format of your choice, but keep it short and easily digestible (no more than 5 minutes for a video or podcast, a page or two for a blog post).
- 5% Paper topic statement (1-2 sentences) and outline
- 10% Rough draft of paper and writing meeting [at least 1000 words, or c. 6 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, double spacing]

20% Final paper [c. 3000 words, or c. 12 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, double spacing, exclusive of abstract (optional) and bibliography]

Grading Scale

| | |
|----|-------------|
| A | 100-93 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 89-87 |
| B | 86-83 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 79-77 |
| C | 76-73 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D | 69-67 |
| D | 66-63 |
| D- | 60-62 |
| E | 59 or lower |

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Stoicism

T 1/11

Reading assignment for next week: pdf's of Sandbach, Ch. 3 ('The System: Ethics'); Ch. 6 ('Fate and Free Will'); Ch. 8 ('Innovation: Panaetius and Posidonius'); Ch. 10 ('The Later Stoics')

Week 2: Stoic Ethics; 'translation' to Roman culture

T 1/18

Reading assignment for next week: Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Introduction & Chronology; Books I and II

Week 3: Cicero on Epicureanism

T 1/25

Reading assignment for next week: *On Moral Ends* Books III and IV

Week 4: Cicero on Stoicism

T 2/1

Reading assignment for next week: Seneca, *Letters on Ethics* intro; selected Letters

Week 5: Seneca Part 1

T 2/8

Reading assignment for next week: Seneca, selected Letters

Week 6: Seneca Part 2

T 2/15

Reading assignment for Week 8: Seneca, selected Letters

Week 7: [Translation Project #1](#)

T 2/22

(Reading assignment for Week 8: Seneca, selected Letters)

Week 8: Seneca Part 3

T 3/1

Reading assignment for Week 11: *The Inner Citadel* chapters 1 and 2

[Week 9: SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS](#)

T 3/8

(Reading assignment for Week 11: *The Inner Citadel* chapters 1 and 2)

Week 10: [Translation Project #2](#)

T 3/15

(Reading assignment for Week 11: *The Inner Citadel* chapters 1 and 2)

Week 11: Marcus Aurelius Part 1

[\[attending CAMWS this week - stay tuned for alternate arrangements\]](#)

T 3/22

Thesis Statement and Outline due

Reading assignment for week 13: selections from *The Inner Citadel*

Week 12: [‘pop’ Stoicism presentations](#)

T 3/29

(Reading assignment for week 13: selections from *The Inner Citadel*)

Week 13: Marcus Aurelius Part 2

T 4/5

Reading assignment for next week: selections from *The Inner Citadel*

Week 14: Marcus Aurelius Part 3

T 4/12

Rough Draft due

Week 15: Rough Draft Writing Meetings

T 4/19: sign up for individual time slot

FINAL PAPER DUE: midnight Thurs. 4/28