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LAT 300.01: Tacitus - Agricola

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Recommended Citation

Gillison, Linda W., "LAT 300.01: Tacitus - Agricola" (2002). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 3395.
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Course objectives: The text for this semester is Tacitus' *Agricola*, a work which combines biography, ethnography, and political critique in a particularly "Tacitean" manner. Central to our discussions will be the concept of "rhetorical history" as the Romans knew and composed it, and you will learn to compare and contrast Roman historiography and its modern relative. We will translate the monograph and investigate in the process various elements of Roman history, historiography, and historical research. We will read Cicero's recommendations about the writing of history and you will learn to discuss Tacitus' relationship to those recommendations. We will look into numismatics epigraphy and you will learn to discuss their uses in the modern historian's hands. We will place Tacitus' works in historical context.. Each student will make an oral presentation to the class and will write an essay focused on Tacitus' mode of historiography.

M	1/28	Introduction: class; Tacitus, historical context	
W	1/30	Historiography at Rome	intro: ix-xviii, xxv-xxxviii
F	2/1	Prologue: <i>Agr.</i> 1-3	[hand-out: Cicero on Historiography]
M	2/4		
W	2/6		[IMPERIAL "MARTYROLOGY"]
F	2/8		
M	2/11	<i>Agr.</i> 4: Childhood	[<i>Dialogus</i> 28.4-29.2; <i>Germania</i> 20.1-3
W	2/13		[rhetorical history]
F	2/15	<i>Agr.</i> 5-9: <i>Agricola</i> 's career before governorship of Britain	[last day to drop/add by cyberbear]
			[PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT]
M	2/18	<u>HOLIDAY: NO CLASS MEETING</u>	
W	2/20		
F	2/22	<i>Agr.</i> 10-13: Britain before <i>Agricola</i> : <i>situs, populi, mores</i>	[PRE-ROMAN BRITAIN]
			[CLAUDIUS/BRITAIN]
M	2/25		
W	2/27		
F	3/1	<i>Agr.</i> 14-17: Boudicca's revolt (60 CE) and aftermath	
M	3/4	14-17, continued	[<i>Germ.</i> 45.9; 40 (Nerthus); 8.2-3 (priestesses)]
			[COLONIA]
W	3/6		
F	3/8	<u>foreign language day: stay tuned</u>	
M	3/11	<i>Agr.</i> 18-24: Military (years 1-5) and civil matters in Britain	[NORTHERN FRONTIER]
			[BRITISH RELIGION]
W	3/13		
F	3/15		

MARCH 18-22: SPRING BREAK

M	3/25	<u>MID-TERM EXAM</u>
W	3/27	Agr. 25-27: sixth year in Britain
F	3/29	
M	4/1	Agr. 29-34: Lead-up to Mons Graupius; speeches [FRONTIER WIVES] [SPEECHES]
W	4/3	
F	4/5	
M	4/8	Agr. 35-38.3: Battle, aftermath [BATAVI]
W	4/10	
F	4/12	
M	4/15	Agr. 39-42: Domitian's reaction [DOMITIAN]
W	4/17	
F	4/19	
M	4/22	Agr. 43-44: Last illness, death, Trajan [TRAJAN]
W	4/24	
F	4/26	
M	4/29	Agr. 45: Historical context, Tacitus' sorrow
W	5/1	
F	5/3	
M	5/6	
W	5/8	Agr. 46: Epilogue
F	5/10	

Text: FacPac

Final exam: 10:10-12:10, Monday, May 13

Grading scale: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, etc.

Grading procedure:

Mid-term exam	25%
Presentation	25%
Essay	25%
Final exam	25%

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Office hours:

Mondays	1:15-3:00	Thursdays	1:00-3:00
Tuesdays	9:00-10:00		