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LATN 311.01: Major Latin Authors

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LATN 311.01: Seneca
(CRN: 39438)
Spring 2018

I. Course Information:
Prerequisites: LATN 102 or equivalent
Location: LA 205
Time: TR 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

II. Instructor's Contact Information:
Instructor: Dr. Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Associate Professor of Classics
Office: LA 429
Email: barbara.weinlich@mso.umt.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & Thursdays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

III. Course Description:
Based on reading and discussing selections from Seneca's prose and from his tragedy Medea, this course will introduce you to the nightmarish story of the famous philosopher-poet, who was the top-adviser and close companion of the emperor Nero. Short presentations on assigned (English) readings will provide further insights and guidance to a comprehensive understanding of Seneca's texts, and a 5-page end-of-the-semester paper will give you the opportunity to have a closer look at what fascinates you most about Seneca and his writings.

IV. Learning Outcomes:
LATN 311 focuses on three main learning outcomes:

1.) That you will develop the specific skills necessary for reading the prose and poetry of Seneca. That means:
   - that you become familiar with his writing style
   - that you become familiar with the specific meaning of 'his' vocabulary

2.) That you are introduced to Stoic philosophy in general and to Seneca's version of Stoic philosophy in particular.

3.) That you will acquire a basic understanding of the political situation (and challenges) that Rome faced in this last part of the transition from the Republic to the Principate by doing little presentations on assigned readings; and writing a 5-page end-of-the-semester paper on what fascinates you most about Seneca and his writings.
V. Course Format:
A typical class day will consist of a mix of reviewing and discussing passages assigned as homework, of identifying Latin grammar and vocabulary, of listening to student presentations, and of answering questions like "What could the author mean to say here?" The goal of each class day is to ensure that work done at home is accurate and well understood, that you are developing proper translation techniques, and that you are gaining an understanding of the historical and philosophical contexts. In-class quizzes will be given frequently.

VI. Required Texts:

VII. Recommended Texts:
(2) Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar (any edition)

VIII. Evaluation:
In-class Performance: 20%
3 Short Presentations: 15%
Quizzes: 20%
3 Tests: 30%
End-of-the-Semester Paper 15%

IX. In-Class Performance:
In-class performance involves both attendance and preparedness. In-class performance is defined minimally as regular attendance. In-class performance is defined maximally as attending all class meetings and being able to identify the basic grammar of a syntactical unit. As a rule of thumb, you should prepare 2 (two) hours for each class meeting.

Note: If you miss one class, it will probably not severely impact your progress towards the goals of this course (and so your course grade), provided that you complete all scheduled assignments and activities. However, if you miss more than one class (whether excused or not), you will risk earning a low or even a failing course grade. Be on time. If you are late, talk to me after class.

X. Short Presentations:
Student will be tasked with 3 (three) short presentations on an assigned (English) reading. The minimum length of presentation is 10 minutes, the maximum 15 minutes. Accompanying handouts are welcomed.
XI. Quizzes:
Will give you a feedback on your developing proper translation techniques. All students will in-class hardcopy quizzes that ask you to give the translation of a known passage and to identify pieces of grammar of a known passage. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. **Note: There are no makeup quizzes of in-class quizzes without proper documentation of illness or emergency. Even with documentation, makeups are at the sole discretion of the game master (= instructor).**

XII. Tests:
Three tests will give you a more comprehensive feedback on your progress in translating Seneca's texts. The first test is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, the second for Thursday, March 22 and the third for April 24. The first test will draw on the readings covered in the first four weeks; the second test will draw on the readings covered in the four weeks after the first test; the third test will draw on the readings covered after the second test. There will be a review session and a study guide for each test. The latter will spell out in-detail what kind of assignments will be given to you.
**Note: There are no makeup tests without proper documentation of illness or emergency. Even with documentation, makeups are at the sole discretion of the game master (= instructor).**

XIII. 5-Page End-of-the-Semester Paper:
A 5-page end-of-the-semester paper will grant you the opportunity to study more in-depth the aspect that fascinates you most about Seneca and his writings. In order to get full credit for this assignment you must write up an outline of your paper and set up an out-of-class meeting with your instructor either in the week before or after the Thanksgiving Holiday for discussing it. Failure to turn in the outline and meet with your instructor will result in a lowering of your paper grade. Late submissions will also result in a lowering of your paper grade. Your paper will be due (at the latest) on Thursday, May 3, at the beginning of our class meeting. A list of suggested secondary literature together with more information on the paper itself will be provided at the beginning of March. More information on the nature and format of the paper will be posted on the course website.

XIV. Extra Credit:
Opportunities to earn Extra Credit will be given. They may include a group travel to the MOR for visiting the exhibit on Julius Caesar.

XV. Academic Integrity & Intellectual Property:
To preserve order and learning, during the formal class time, you will remember: **Be on Time. Be Professional. Be Prepared. Be Respectful. Respect yourself by doing your own homework and not copying or plagiarizing work.**
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

**XVI. Credit / No Credit Option:**
I expect you to take the course for a traditional letter grade, but in exceptional circumstances I am willing to discuss this matter with you.

**XVII. Accommodation of Learning Disabilities:**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.