LAT 300.01: Tacitus - Agricola

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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 it’s 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: *Agr.* 1-3 [hand-out: Cicero on Historiography]

**M 2/4**  
**W 2/6**  [IMPERIAL “MARTYROLOGY”]  
**F 2/8**  
**M 2/11**  *Agr.* 4: Childhood [Dialogus 28.4-29.2: *Germania* 20.1-3]

**W 2/13**  [rhetorical history]  
**F 2/15**  *Agr.* 5-9: Agricola’s career before governship of Britain [last day to drop/add by cyberbear] [PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT]

**M 2/18**  **HOLIDAY: NO CLASS MEETING**  
**W 2/20**  
**F 2/22**  *Agr.* 10-13: Britain before Agricola: *situs, populi, mores* [PRE-ROMAN BRITAIN] [CLAUDIUS/BRITAIN]

**M 2/25**  
**W 2/27**  
**F 3/1**  *Agr.* 14-17: Boudicca’s revolt (60 CE) and aftermath [Germ. 45.9;40 (Nerthus); 8.2-3 (prietesses)] [COLONIA]

**W 3/6**  
**F 3/8**  foreign language day: stay tuned

**M 3/11**  *Agr.* 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**
MID-TERM EXAM

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
[FRON TIER 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  [TRAJ AN]
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