

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Spring 2022

ENGL 210 Section 007: Literary Genres: Ancient and Modern Superpowers: CRN: 202240

Meeting times: TR 8:00-9:15 AM

Classroom: HL Griffin Hall (HLG) 201

Instructor: Nicholas Mennona Marino, MA

Office: HL Griffin Hall (HLG) 341

Office Mailbox: HL Griffin Hall (HLG) 221

Office Hours: TR 9:30 AM-10:30 AM in HLG 341 and by appointment

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Course Description and Objectives

This course covers the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire through epic poetry and the analysis and discussion of the works of Lucretius (Republic), Virgil (transition from Republic to Empire), and Lucan (Empire).

KEY QUESTIONS

• Is the United States of America the new Rome?

• How did Rome change from Republic to Empire?

• How did Roman epic poetry draw from Greek philosophical traditions like Epicureanism and Stoicism?

• How do the conventions of epic poetry reflect the political realities of ancient Rome?

• What are the genre conventions of epic poetry?

Textbooks

Students must purchase the following books:

Lucan. *Pharsalia* [De Bello Civili]. Translated by Jane Wilson Joyce. Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press, 1993. (ISBN: 978-0-8014-8137-6)

Lucretius. *The Nature of Things* [De Rerum Natura]. Translated by A. E. Stallings. London, UK, Penguin, 2007. (ISBN: 978-0-140-44796-5)

Virgil. *Aeneid*. Translated by Stanley Lombardo. Indianapolis, IN, Hackett, 2005. (ISBN: 978-0- 87220-731-8)

Additional course readings will include book chapter scans and online articles that will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

Roman Philosophy Essay Essay (RPE) 25%

In an essay of 5 pages consider whether life is about the pursuit of virtue (Stoicism) or the pursuit of pleasure (Epicureanism) and why. You may discuss how these philosophies fit (or do not fit) with your religious beliefs. You must cite from Marcus Aurelius, Musonius Rufus, Epicurus, and Lucretius in your essay. You are encouraged to use personal examples from your own life as evidence for your position.

*De Rerum Natura* Response Essay (DRNRE) 5%

In an essay of 3 pages, discuss your reactions upon finishing Lucretius’s *De Rerum Natura*. You should cite from the essay parts of the poem which intrigued or interested you. Your essay should also discuss the poem’s strengths and weaknesses from your point of view. This essay does not require a first draft.

Roman Oral Presentation (ROP) 15%

In a 5-minute oral presentation, discuss a topic from Roman history or culture. Your presentation should include plenty of visual evidence as well as a voiceover narration. It is best to focus on a narrow topic (the Vestal Virgins) as opposed to a broader topic (ancient Roman religion). Your presentation should include works cited information though it is not necessary to document every single claim that you get from the sources.

*Aeneid* Response Essay (ARE) 5%

In an essay of 3 pages, discuss your reactions upon finishing Virgil’s *Aeneid*. You should cite from the essay parts of the poem which intrigued or interested you. Your essay should also discuss the poem’s strengths and weaknesses from your point of view. This essay does not require a first draft.

Roman Research Essay (RRE) 25%

In an essay of 8-10 pages, present an argument based on any of the three required texts that draws on scholarly sources as evidence.

*Pharsalia* Response Essay (PRE) 5%

In an essay of 3 pages, discuss your reactions upon finishing Lucan’s *Pharsalia*. You should cite from the essay parts of the poem which intrigued or interested you. Your essay should also discuss the poem’s strengths and weaknesses from your point of view. This essay does not require a first draft.

Participation and Attendance 20%

This portion of your grade covers how often you attend class and whether you post in the Moodle discussion forums. Excused absences will count for the same as attending class in terms of credit but only if the instructor gets documentation for each absence.

Roman Extra Credit Essay (RECE)

In an essay of 3 pages, provide a film or literature review of a modern work concerning ancient Rome. If you focus on a text that discusses similar content to the three textbooks (such as a film adaptation of the *Aeneid*) then your essay should discuss the similarities and differences between the source material and the modern retelling.

Grading Scale

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 0-59

The instructor will use <https://www.thegradecalculator.com/> for calculating final course grades. Students should use this website to check their final course grade after grades are posted in order to make sure that they received the correct letter grade for their final numerical grade.

Participation

This portion of your grade covers whether you post on the Moodle discussion forums. Students will make a total of at least 6 posts over the course of the semester. 2 posts will consist of students uploading their RPE and RRE rough drafts. 2 posts will consist of peer review feedback by each student towards two peers for the RPE. 2 posts will consist of peer review feedback by each student towards two peers for the RRE.

Attendance Policy

The course will meet a total of 24 times, with 24 class sessions and 1 mandatory midterm conference (which will be held over the course of 2 days but for which each student must attend only 1 of the 2 days).

Students who are not required to attend class face to face because of quarantine or illness or any other documented reason should, if they are able, contact the instructor by email to work out an arrangement for them to contribute to the class digitally.

University policy suggests that students should miss no more than 10% of class meetings, which is roughly 2-3 meetings for this class. Students who must miss class due to a documented emergency or health issue will be considered present for attendance purposes as long as the instructor receives documentation before 28 April 2022.

Extra credit

Successful completion of the extra credit will boost a student’s final course grade by 5 percentage points. For example, a student who gets a 76 (C) in the class and who does extra credit will get an 81 (B). There may be other extra credit assignments that the instructor will discuss in class and post about on Moodle later in the semester.

Plagiarism Policy

Students that plagiarize in this class will automatically fail the assignment in question, except for minor citation issues that do not show an intent to deceive. Further plagiarism puts students at risk of automatically failing the course. The decision to fail the student for a second violation of plagiarism lies with the instructor and the severity of the offenses. Students are encouraged to check citation resources like the Purdue Online Writing Lab website (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) and the instructor materials on essay writing (on Moodle). Students who are unclear about plagiarism should contact the instructor with any issues that they have in understanding it, specifically in terms of MLA style.

For Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette makes accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) office at 337-482-5252 or ods@louisiana.edu during the first week of classes. ODS will assist you with an accommodation plan. The university also has a Supported Education Program (SEP, http://disability.louisiana.edu/SEP.html), which provides free confidential help on campus for students with psychological disabilities (Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, etc.). Please contact Kim A. Warren, MSW, PhD, LCSW, Supported Education Advisor, at 482-5252 or at kimawarren@louisiana.edu. She is located in the Conference Center, Room 126.

Office Hours

It is important to take advantage of office hours. Your professors and instructors are busy people with responsibilities that span beyond the courses they teach. However, they must set aside 2 office hours each week per class section. During this time, students take priority for their teachers’ attention. No appointment is necessary for office hours. If you cannot attend the office hours listed for your section, please email me and we can arrange a different time to meet or via Zoom at a specific time and day. All office hour meetings will be held in my office in HLG 341. Please come prepared with questions that you have about the course, the course readings, or your writing. If you have a question about something university related but not necessarily related to this class, I may still be able to help or direct you to who can help resolve your issue. Asking for help in college is not a sign of weakness but a sign of initiative to succeed, so take advantage of office hours! I am paid to hold office hours and I have no problem “earning” that money.

Technology policy

The use of technology is permitted in class so long as it does not cause a distraction to other students. Students may be asked to access the internet in class via laptop or mobile device. Students who do not have access to the internet through a laptop or mobile device will not be penalized but may have to rely on their classmates or the instructor to access the internet in class.

Students should familiarize themselves with the technology resources available at the Dupré library since this course has a research essay assignment.

Draft feedback

The instructor will provide final draft feedback on Moodle. Students that desire rough draft feedback for their assignments must meet with the instructor during office hours or else at a different time if they are unavailable during the instructor’s office hours. Each student will provide peer review feedback on the Moodle forums at least 7 times throughout the semester.

To reserve class time for discussing the assigned readings, peer review will be conducted entirely online, in discussion forums for the writing assignments on Moodle. The instructor will discuss peer review strategies in class and may upload materials related to peer review to Moodle if necessary.

Late work policy

Late work will be penalized by 5 percent for each calendar day. For example, an assignment due on a Monday that is turned in on a Friday would be penalized 20 percent as it is 4 days late so the maximum grade the late assignment could get is 80 percent. In cases of documented emergencies, the instructor may waive this policy.

Classroom conduct

The instructor is not responsible for making sure that students learn but is responsible for maintaining an environment in which students can learn. The instructor reserves the right to remove from the classroom students that cause a disruption that threatens this environment.

ULL Writing Center

The Writing Center is a free service located on the first floor of Griffin Hall, in room 107. The Writing Center consultants are experienced writers and students who pride themselves on creating a comfortable environment for every phase of your writing project. From thesis statements, to research planning, document design, to just getting started, the Writing Center staff works to help you become more focused, organized, and confident with your work. In addition to providing the latest style manuals and handbooks, the Writing Center also operates a computer lab, located next door in Griffin Hall, room 108. Both of these services are free, student-operated, and devoted to helping you be a more successful and productive student. Walk-ins are accepted, but scheduling an appointment in advance (482-5224) is recommended. Students who are more than ten minutes late to an appointment must reschedule.

Campus Safety Information

Joseph Pons, Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, has asked that in accordance with the UL Lafayette’s Environmental Health and Safety Procedures, to please include the following information on in all syllabi:

1. University Police are the first responders for all emergencies on campus. Dial 911 or 482-6447 to report any emergency.

2. The Emergency Information Floor Plan is posted in the hallways for every building. This document includes evacuation routes and other important information. Please familiarize yourself with this document.

3. In the event that the building fire alarm is sounded, please exit the building immediately and notify University Police. Do not use the building elevator - look for the illuminated Exit Signs to direct you to safety.

4. During times of emergency, information may be available on the University's Emergency Hotline - 482-2222. This number is printed on the back of your ID card.

5. The University utilizes a text message service to notify its students and employees of campus wide emergencies. To subscribe to this service, log on to www.ul.mobilecampus.com .

6. If you have a special medical condition that might render you incapacitated during class, please make this known to your instructor as soon as possible, including any emergency contact information for your next of kin or similar.

Class Schedule for TR

Note: The instructor reserves the right to move assignment deadlines forward.

Note: Because of the inevitability of a course schedule not reflecting the hectic reality of teaching a class, this course schedule is subject to change. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before each class. Students should check their Moodle page for this course in order to stay updated on which readings are due when in the case of schedule change.

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| Date | Notes/Lesson Plan | Readings due | Assignments due |
|  |  |  |  |
| R 13 January | Review syllabusClass introductions | - | - |
| T 18 January | Lecture on Hellenistic philosophy | Marcus Aurelius *Meditations* (Moodle, each student should read at least 1 of the 12 books)Epicurus “Letter to Menoeceus” (Moodle) Epicurus “Principal Doctrines” (Moodle)“The Roman Virtues” (Moodle)Musonius Rufus Lectures I-XXI (Moodle) | - |
| W 19 January | NO CLASS – drop/add deadline |  | - |
| R 20 January | Review DRNRE assignment prompt | Greenblatt “The Answer Man” (Moodle)Lucretius Book I (pp. 3-35) | - |
| T 25 January | Review RPE assignment prompt | Lucretius Book II (pp. 36-71) | ~~-~~ |
| R 27 January |  | Lucretius Book III (pp. 72-105) | - |
| T 1 February |  | Lucretius Book IV (pp. 106-146) | RPE first draft |
| R 3 February |  | Lucretius Book V (pp. 147-195) | RPE first draft feedback (Moodle) |
| T 8 February |  | Lucretius Book VI (pp. 196-238) | DRNRE final draftROP topic and time selection (Moodle discussion forums) |
| R 10 February | Review ARE assignment prompt | Pandey “Rome’s ‘Empire Without End’ and the ‘Endless’ U.S. War on Terror” (Moodle)Virgil Book 1 (pp. 1-26) | RPE final draft |
| T 15 February |  | Virgil Book 2 (pp. 27-53) | - |
| R 17 February | Review RRE assignment prompt | Virgil Book 3 (pp. 54-76) | - |
| T 22 February |  | Virgil Book 4 (pp. 77-100) | ~~-~~ |
| R 24 February |  | Virgil Book 5 (pp. 101-129) | ~~-~~ |
| T 1 March | NO CLASS – Mardi Gras holiday |  | Select conference time (Moodle discussion forums) |
| R 3 March |  | Virgil Book 6 (pp. 130-161) | - |
| T 8 March | ROP in class | - | ROP |
| R 10 March | ROP in class | - | ROP |
| T 15 March | Midterm Conferences | ~~-~~ | ~~-~~ |
| R 17 March | Midterm Conferences | - | - |
| T 22 March | CLASS CANCELED DUE TO CAMPUS CLOSURE FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER |  | - |
| R 24 March | Review RECE assignment promptROP in class (continued) |  | - |
| T 29 March | ROP in class (continued) | Virgil Book 7 (pp. 162-189) | - |
| R 31 March | NO CLASS – Instructor ConferenceCourse withdrawal deadline for W grade | - | - |
| T 5 April |  | Virgil Book 8 (pp. 190-214) | - |
| R 7 April |  | Virgil Book 9 (pp. 215-243) | - |
| T 12 April |  | Virgil Book 10 (pp. 244-276) | - |
| R 14 April | Review PRE assignment prompt | Mendelsohn “Is the Aeneid a Celebration of Empire—or a Critique?” (Moodle)Virgil Books 11-12 (pp. 277-340)Murphy “No, Really, Are We Rome?” (Moodle)Lucan Books I-II (pp. 1-53) | ARE final draft |
| T 19 April | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK |  | - |
| R 21 April | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAKRome’s 2774th birthday |  | - |
| T 26 April | Show clip from *Rome* (HBO, 2005) Episode 1 “The Stolen Eagle”  | Lucan Books III-VII (pp. 54-195) | RRE first draft |
| R 28 April | Last day of classShow clip from Rome (HBO, 2005) Episode Season 1 Episode 7 “Pharsalus”Discussion of how Lucretius/Virgil/Lucan reflect similarities between ancient Rome and USA | Lucan Books VIII - XII (pp. 196-286) | RRE draft feedback (Moodle)PRE final draft |
| R 5 May | NO CLASS |  | RRE final draftRECE final draft (optional) |
| M 9 May  | NO CLASS – Instructor final course grades due |  |  |