LATIN SENIOR UNITS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY, 2021

In 2021, the department intends to offer units on the following texts. Please note that this programme may be subject to alteration. This document does not supersede any regulation in the UG handbook, where more information about assessment, learning situations, and the design of the units can be found.

Semester 1

LATN2600: Intermediate Latin 1 (Tamara Neal)
Prerequisites HSC Latin or LATN1601 or LATN2621
This unit concentrates on consolidating the basic knowledge acquired in the first year of Latin or at school through attention to the syntax of the sentence, language study and the close reading of a wide variety of classical texts. The core of the unit will be volume 2 of Keller and Russell’s Learn to read Latin and selections from Livy book 1.

LATN3612: Later Latin Literature (Paul Roche)  Augustine, Confessions
Prerequisites LATN2601
This new unit offers a selection of authors working in Latin from late antiquity into the early modern period, to investigate the enduring vibrancy and relevance of Classical literary themes and forms. In 2021 we shall be reading selections from Augustine’s Confessions, a spiritual autobiography by one of antiquity’s great intellectuals, an unparalleled psychological portrait and a fascinating document of late-Roman social history. Set text: White (CUP 2019).

LATN3603: Latin Imperial Poetry (Paul Roche)  Lucan, Civil War 10; Valerius Flaccus, Argonautica 3
Prerequisites 12 credit points at 2000 level in Latin
In this unit we will read two of the great imperial epic poems of the first century AD. In the final tenth book of Lucan’s Civil War, we encounter Caesar in Egypt, contemplating Alexander, dallying with Cleopatra, learning of the Nile’s source and fighting for his life. In Valerius Flaccus’ Argonautica, the first of the Flavian epics, we will read of the disastrous stay of the Argonauts on Cyzicus in which heroic hospitality descends tragically to civil war. Set texts Manuwald (CUP 2015).

Semester 2

LATN2601: Intermediate Latin 2 (Paul Roche)  Sallust Conspiracy of Catiline
Prerequisites LATN2600
This unit builds on work done in Intermediate Latin 1, further consolidating knowledge of Latin through language study and the close reading of texts. This year’s texts will be Sallust’s Conspiracy of Catiline: the debut work of one of Rome’s greatest and most influential historians. In it we’ll read of the threat posed to Rome in 63 BC by the plotting of the nefarious Catiline, and the response of the Roman senate, led by Cicero in his consular year to thwart the conspiracy. Set text Ramsey (OUP 2007).

LATN3602: Virgil’s Aeneid (Bob Cowan)  Virgil Aeneid 4
Corequisites LATN2601
Virgil’s Aeneid stands at the heart of Roman—and Western—literature and culture, and book 4 stands at the heart of the Aeneid. The love affair of Dido and Aeneas and the devastating consequences of its end is among the most moving of all narratives, but it also explores important questions of gender, ethnicity, politics, philosophy, and theology. We shall also read a range of key episodes from across the epic and use them to engage with the main critical approaches to the poem. Set edition: Conte (Teubner 2019, online), commentary: Cowan (forthcoming).

LATN3605: Latin Republican Prose (Paul Roche)  Livy book 22, Caesar, Civil War 3
Prerequisites 12 credit points at 2000 level in Latin
In this unit we will read what has been described as Livy’s ‘best and most dramatic’ book: his account of the catastrophic defeat of the Romans by Hannibal at Lake Trasimene and at Cannae in 217-216 BC. We will follow with Caesar’s account of the civil war between himself and Pompey; his defeat of Pompey at Pharsalus and its aftermath. Set text Briscoe and Hornblower (CUP 2020).

Requirements for Honours
When making your choices, remember that to do Honours in Latin, you require a major in Latin with an average mark of at least 70. A major in Latin consists of 48 credit points of LATN units. If you start at beginners’ level, a major is 2x1000-level, 2x2000-level and 4x3000-level units. If you start at intermediate level, a major is 2x2000-level and 6x3000-level units. 3000-level units must include 6 credit points of Interdisciplinary Project units. More information about majors and honours can be found in the Undergraduate Handbook.

You may also be interested in the literature-in-translation paper running in Semester 1, 2021: ANHS2619 The World of Ancient Epic (James Collins).