# Latin Literature (Degree in Arts and Philosophy; Course in the Humanities)

## Prof. Antonino Pittà

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The Latin Literature course for students from the Literatures first degree course, specialising in Classical Literature, aims to provide students with subject skills through the analysis of texts and the complexities of Latin literary culture. Using the methods and tools of textual exegesis and literary research, the course aims to examine original-language Latin poetry, with linguistic, literary and philological commentary. The main theme of the course will be the artistic representation of conflict. The parallel reading of texts from different ages and genres aims to provide an overview of the various strategies by which Latin culture interprets and problematises, in historical contexts and through different expressive codes, the clash of men, gods, natural forces and ethical conceptions.

At the end of the course, students will not only have acquired an in-depth knowledge of the passages covered in class, but a method of critical-exegetic analysis applicable to other texts by other authors and other literary genres. They will be able to deal autonomously with research work on Latin literary production, and will be provided with the necessary tools to contextualize Latin literary texts within the framework of a broader understanding of cultural phenomena. They will also have developed their own critical ability to deal with today's dramatic topical issues and the role of humanist culture as a key instrument for interpreting them.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module one

From the collision of atoms to the *bellum civile*: The Republican Age

Module two

“Classical” forms of conflict and their transformation: The Augustan age

*Individual study*

For students from the three-year degree course who have not yet acquired ECTS, the following individual reading is required:

Module one

– Plautus or Terence: a comedy chosen by the student.

– Cicero: a book from a philosophical work chosen by the student (excluding the

*Somnium Scipionis*).

– Virgil’s *Aeneid*: a book chosen by the student;

– History of Latin literature: from the origins to the Augustan Age (included).

N.B.: During the Latin language integrative course taught by Prof. Gorla attention will be focused on the II book of *De finibus* by Cicero; students’ regular and attested attendance to the course will allow for a reduction of text extension to study for the exam.

Module two

– Catullus: *carmina* 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 35, 36, 43, 49, 50, 51, 52, 68, 70, 72, 75, 76, 85, 86, 87, 92, 93, 95, 96, 101, 107, 109.

– Virgil, *Georgics IV 281-566;*

*–* Ovid, the third book of the *Fasti*;

– Seneca: *De tranquillitate animi* or *De brevitate vitae or Consolatio ad Helviam matrem*;

– History of Latin literature: the Imperial Age, up to the age of Theodosius (Claudian included).

N.B.: During the Latin language integrative course taught by Prof. Perelli attention will be focused on the Book III of the *Fasti* by Ovid; students’ regular and attested attendance to the course will allow for a reduction of the number of verses to study for the exam.

*For First Cycle Degree students having already been awarded12 ECTS and wishing to get other 6, the following authors must also be studied:*

– Horace, *Epistles* (book I and II) and *Ars poetica*: at least 500 verses in a consecutive sequence must be chosen and prepared;

– *Titus Livius*: a book.

– Apuleius, *Metamorphoses:or the Tale of Cupid and Psyche* (4,28-6,24).

***READING LIST***

The texts which will be analysed during the course and the corresponding bibliographical materials will be made available throughout the lectures.

The texts to be analysed will be extrapolated from the main critical editions (Oxford Classical Texts, Bibliotheca Teubneriana, Belles Lettres, ecc.).

Students may choose any edition for the texts which they will have to prepare autonomously.

*Propaedeutic manual to the academic study of Latin:*

Traina-G. Bernardi Perini, *Propedeutica al latino universitario,* Pàtron, Bologna, 1998, 6th ed according to Professor Gorla’s indications regarding the course content.

*Recommended manuals for the study of literary history:*

Any manual already employed during secondary schools is suitable. If students do not have one such, they may consult the manual edited by G.B. Conte, Le Monnier edit.

For a deeper study, the following volumes are recommended:

M. Von Albrecht, *Storia della letteratura latina,* Einaudi, Turin, 1995-96, 3 volumes.

*For prosody and metrics the following is recommended:*

S. Boldrini, *Fondamenti di prosodia e metrica latina,* Carocci, Rome, 2004.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures integrated with Latin language courses (written translations from Latin, by Prof. Canetta; problems concerning Latin language and linguistics + reading of texts for the general part by Prof. Gorla and Perelli). Interventions by external scholars are part of the examination syllabus.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examinations. The oral examination, of appropriate duration, assesses students’ knowledge and skills, specifically: accuracy of information, clarity and conciseness of presentation, use of specific subject language, ability to develop relevant answers and development of a critical approach to information and knowledge acquired during the course.

Specifically, the minimum requirements are as follows:

*Part I: language*

Throughout the exam, candidates shall prove their ability to:

– read metrically Virgil’s texts (module I), Catullus’s and Ovid’s texts (module II);

– translate Plautus’s and Terence’s texts, together with Cicero’s, Virgil’s texts (module I); Catullus’s, Virgil’s, Ovid’s and Seneca’s texts (module II). Candidates will also have to recognise the phonetic and morpho-syntactic aspects, the lexical ones, the rhetorical and stylistic ones, and the cultural context.

*Part II: literary history*

With reference to one of the recommended manuals, candidates shall prove their ability to:

– have knowledge of the personalities and the production of Latin authors, being able to place them within their historical and cultural context;

– delineate the evolution of genres within the history of Latin literature.

*Part III: single-subject course*

Making use of the lecture notes and of the didactic materials and texts posted by the Professor on Blackboard platform, students shall prove their ability to translate the Latin texts examined during the lectures, and to comment upon them, ri-elaborating the Professor’s explanations.

Each part will be assessed with a mark out of thirty, and the final mark will be the resulting average of the three partial ones.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Humanities first cycle degree students will be awarded the first 12 ECTS only if they attend the course in its entirety (attendance and active participation during the lectures of the first and second module); the second 6 ECTS will be awarded through the attendance of a module chosen by the student during one of the following years.

Together with showing an adequate language preparation, students shall also prove they know prosody and metrics (hexameter and pentameter).

Students *do not need to register online* for the first part of the examination, they may go to the Latin Literature examination session after having informed the lecturer by email. Vice versa, students who need to complete the examination (by sitting part two) must register *online* as the lecturer will not be able to upload the students’ final mark if they are not officially registered for the examination.

In order to attend the Latin Literature course students must have good basic knowledge of Latin morphosyntax as well as the main topics of Latin literature; any gaps in students’ knowledge will be addressed during lectures and corrected by means of supplementary Language courses (see above) held during the first semester (Professor Gorla) and the second semester (Professor Perelli) as part of the literary course.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's Blackboard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.