

LAT 3140: THE LYRIC POETRY OF HORACE

Dr. Daniel Solomon

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Office hours: Tue 11-12, Wed 3-4, or by appointment in Cohen 303 (tel.: [615-33]2-3303).

Required texts:

- 1) Ronnie Ancona, *Horace: Selected Odes and Satire 1.9* (2nd edition). Bolchazy-Carducci, 2005
- 2) Other poems and modern scholarship uploaded to Brightspace

- Please bring to class the Ancona textbook when it is assigned for the day.

- No laptops are permitted in class, except for a documented disability: any notes must be taken by hand.

Objectives: Interpretation, contextualization, and influence of the lyric poetry of Horace. The period between 44 and 13 BCE marked a political and psychological watershed for ancient Rome, as the Republic, having stood firm for half a millennium, was replaced by Empire. Romans accustomed to self-determination and competition were now obliged to leave the most important public decision-making in the hands of a ruler. Horace had fought for the Republic at the battle of Philippi; after defeat and amnesty, he was invited to accept Augustus' literary patronage, and within twenty years he had become the official bard of the new regime. In this course we will analyze the poetry and politics of a man uniquely placed to mediate between conservative and progressive Rome.

Of all the many genres with which Horace experimented, the lyric poetry of the *Odes* and the *Epodes* alone provides a literary continuum stretching over thirty years, as Horace claimed to be the first to successfully import to Rome the Greek lyric poetry represented especially by Alcaeus, Sappho, and Pindar. We will see how he adapted both the rhetoric and the aesthetics of Catullus in a quest to become Rome's first "serious" poet. We will always begin with the meter, diction, imagery, and structure of each poem in our reconstructions of its social and literary contexts. Therefore we will limit our assignments to about 100 short verses per week, but we will consider each of these verses in thorough detail.

Lesson format: After a brief summary of the previous session's material, we will translate, examine noteworthy grammar, and analyze. **Please use the vocabulary provided in your textbooks** (for Brightspace poems, when two very different translations are given, the first is literal, the second is more appropriate to the context). If you cannot figure it out, email me; copying anyone else's translation constitutes **plagiarism**.

All translation in class must be directly from the original text, which will be displayed on a PowerPoint slide:

1) **do not use written cribs**, and 2) **do not write out the translation while we go over it in class**.

Requirements:

- **Participation:** this grade indicates primarily the EFFORT you put into this course; it thus reflects the extent to which you come to class prepared both to translate and to contribute **(15%)**.

5% of the grade will depend on **TWO assigned recitations** of 8-10 verses of a passage assigned for that day. They do not have to be memorized, but they must respect pronunciation, meter, and above all feeling, and I expect you to meet with me beforehand to finalize them. I will assign these after the drop period.

- **Three short quizzes (20 minutes):** **Quizzes 1 and 3** will be translation, scansion, and grammar, but **Quiz 2** will be a commentary, in order to prepare you for the first Review Exam **(5% each)**.

- **Two Review Exams (75 minutes):** translation, scansion, grammar, commentary **(20% each)**.

- **Research Paper** (10-12 pages), **uploaded to Brightspace as a Word document**, due **Saturday, November 19**: the choice of topic is up to you, but you should confirm it with me beforehand. You could focus on a passage, a theme, or a comparison; whatever your topic, you must show mastery of our course materials. You must schedule a **meeting** with me or **email 2-3 proposals** at the **beginning of November**; **by November 6**, you may submit a **first draft**, but you must submit at least an **outline**. After I have returned the final draft, you will give a 15-minute presentation to the class of your findings **(30%)**.

Grading scale:

Points are scored out of a total of 100: the top ten constitute the "A" range, the next ten the "B" range, and so forth. The letter is accompanied by "+" or "-" if your score falls within the top or bottom 3 points of each range. Thus e.g. 87-89.9 = B+ ; 83-86.9 = B ; 80-82.9 = B-

Schedule of readings: **poems assigned in Latin are underlined.**

Some are from the Ancona textbook, the others are on **Brightspace**, together with the *ancient literature* and **modern scholarship** assigned for that day.

Thu	Aug 25	Introduction
Tue	Aug 30	Intro to Horace the celebrity: <u>Satire 1.9.1-34</u> ; <i>Suetonius biography</i> ; meter handout
Thu	Sep 1	Intro to Maecenas: <u>Satire 1.9.35-78</u> ; grammar handout; Courtney .
Tue	Sep 6	the newcomer against other newcomers: <u>Epode 4</u> ; <i>iambic poems</i> ; Oliensis ; <u>Epode 16.1-34</u>
Thu	Sep 8	no way out: <u>Epodes 16.35-66</u> ; <i>Vergil Eclogue 4</i> ; Nisbet; Watson.
Tue	Sep 13	Quiz 1 ; Intro to Maecenas' <i>amicitia</i> : <u>Ode 1.1-10</u> ; meter handout
Thu	Sep 15	<u>Ode 1.11-36</u> ; <i>lyric poems</i> ; Augustus: <u>Ode 1.2.1-12</u>
Tue	Sep 20	<u>Ode 1.2.13-52</u> ; <i>Vergil Georgics</i>
Thu	Sep 22	<i>Praeceptor amoris</i> : <u>Ode 1.5</u> ; Commager, pp. 182-189; <u>Ode 1.13</u> ; Segal
Tue	Sep 27	Quiz 2 ; <i>Recusatio</i> : <u>Ode 1.6</u> ; Putnam, pp. 50-60
Thu	Sep 29	<i>Symposium</i> : <u>Ode 1.9</u> ; <u>1.11</u> ; Anderson
Tue	Oct 4	<i>Locus amoenus</i> : <u>Ode 1.17</u> ; Dunn; <u>Ode 1.19</u>
Thu	Oct 6	Safe from danger (?): <u>Ode 1.22</u> ; <u>1.23</u> ; Hubbard, pp. 32-37; Ancona
Tue	Oct 11	Review Exam 1
Thu	Oct 13	FALL BREAK
Tue	Oct 18	Old age and death: <u>Ode 1.24</u> ; <u>Ode 1.25</u> ; Johnson, pp. 113-122
Thu	Oct 20	Cleopatra: <u>Ode 1.37</u> ; <i>Propertius and Aeneid</i> ; "scale it back!": <u>Ode 1.38</u>
Tue	Oct 25	Civil war and friendship: <u>Ode 2.7</u> ; Moles
Thu	Oct 27	Teacher of love, life, and time: <u>Ode 2.3</u> ; Gold, pp. 16-25; <u>Ode 2.10</u>
Tue	Nov 1	Quiz # 3 ; Death: <u>Ode 2.14</u> ; Roberts
Thu	Nov 3	"Roman Odes": <u>Ode 3.1</u> ; Witke
	(Sun Nov 6	PAPER OUTLINE DUE)
Tue	Nov 8	Return to <i>locus amoenus</i> : <u>Ode 3.9</u> ; <i>Catullus 45</i> ; Putnam; <u>Ode 3.13</u> ; <i>Catullus 31</i> ; Mader
Thu	Nov 10	Rapture and immortality: <u>Ode 3.25</u> ; <u>Ode 3.30</u> ; Woodman.
Tue	Nov 15	A new edition: <u>Ode 4.1</u> ; Putnam
Thu	Nov 17	Spring: <u>Ode 4.7</u> ; <i>Catullus 46</i> ; Fredricksmeier
	(Sat Nov 19	PAPER DUE)
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Tue	Nov 29	End of the <i>Odes</i> : <u>Ode 4.15</u> ; Breed
Thu	Dec 1	Review Exam 2
Tue	Dec 6	<i>Presentations</i>
Thu	Dec 8	<i>Presentations</i>