

Latin Tutorial – Nero in Suetonius & pseudo-Seneca

Note: This syllabus is a sample of what the Latin course at UC Center Rome may look like. Intermediate and Advanced Latin is available for students majoring in Classics or other related majors or minors. The actual content of the course will be determined upon consultation with the student.

Course description

This tutorial focuses on the figure of Nero as he is presented to us by the biographer Suetonius. We will read selections from Suetonius' Life of Nero in Latin and we will read the complete work (The Twelve Caesars) in translation. We will study the Latin closely. There will be grammar review and quizzes on grammar. Additional texts in translation, among which Tacitus' Annales, will be used to complete the picture of the early Empire (second half first century BC – first century AD) and the role the Julio-Claudian emperors played in it. We will also make short excursions into pseudo-Seneca's Octavia to see how the last years of Nero's life and reign were set out in a tragedy.

A few classes will be held on site (Palatine, Colosseum; Colle Oppio/Domus Aurea) and there will be a day trip to Anzio, Nero's place of birth.

The grade will be based on the student's preparation & participation (10%), three quizzes (10% each), a mid-term exam (30%), and a final exam (30%).

Textbooks

B.H. Warmington (ed.), *Suetonius, Nero* (Bristol Classical Press 1999).

Rolando Ferri (ed.), *Octavia: A Play Attributed to Seneca* (Cambridge University Press 2009).

Translations

Dio Cassius, *Roman History*. (Project Gutenberg website)

Michael Grant, Tacitus. *The Annals of Imperial Rome* (Harmondsworth 1977).

Robert Graves and Michael Grant, *Suetonius. The Twelve Caesars* (London 2003).

Tacitus, *The Histories and The Annals*. (LacusCurtius website)

E.F. Watling, *Seneca. Four Tragedies and Octavia* (Harmondsworth 1966).

Grammar review

Moreland & Fleischer, *Latin. An Introductory Course* (University of California 1977).

Andrew Keller and Stephanie Russell, *Learn to Read Latin* (Yale University Press 2003).

Frederic M. Wheelock, *Wheelock's Latin* (1995).

Further reading

Anthony J. Boyle, *Roman Tragedy* (Routledge 2005).

Edward Champlin, *Nero* (Harvard University Press 2005).

Amanda Claridge, *Rome: an Oxford Archaeological Guide* (Oxford 1998).

Filippo Coarelli, *Rome and Environs. An Archaeological Guide* (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2007).

Elaine Fantham, *Roman Literary Culture: from Cicero to Apuleius* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, reprint edition 1999).

Miriam T. Griffin, *Nero: The End of a Dynasty* (Routledge 1987).

Stephen Harrison (ed.), *A Companion to Latin Literature* (Oxford 2007).

Susanna Morton Braund, *Latin Literature* (New York 2002).

David Shotter, *Nero Caesar Augustus: Emperor of Rome Publisher* (Longman 2008).

John E. Stambaugh, *The Ancient Roman City* (Baltimore and London 1988).
Oliver Taplin (ed.), *Literature in the Roman World* (New York 2001).
Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Suetonius* (Bristol Classical Press 1998).

Useful websites

Perseus Digital Library

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

Lewis & Short Latin – English dictionary online

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/morphindex?lang=la>

Internet Ancient History Sourcebook:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html>

Lacus Curtius – A Gateway to Ancient Rome

<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html>

Digital Roman Forum

<http://dlib.etc.ucla.edu/projects/Forum/resources>

Project Gutenberg

<http://www.gutenberg.org>

JSTOR – The Scholarly Journal Archive

<http://www.jstor.org>

Ad Fontes Academy's The Latin Library

www.thelatinlibrary.com

The Roman calendar

http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/Egypt/ptolemies/chron/roman/chron_rom_cal.htm

The News in Latin

http://yle.fi/radio1/tiede/nuntii_latini & <http://ephemeris.alcuinus.net>

Grade breakdown

Participation & preparation	10%
Three quizzes	30%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	30%
TOTAL	<hr/> 100%