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

Translations
Dio Cassius, Roman History. (Project Gutenberg website)
Tacitus, The Histories and The Annals. (LacusCurtius website)

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

Further reading
Anthony J. Boyle, Roman Tragedy (Routledge 2005).
David Shotter, Nero Caesar Augustus: Emperor of Rome Publisher (Longman 2008).

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**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

**Grade breakdown**
Participation & preparation 10%
Three quizzes 30%
Mid-term exam 30%
Final exam 30%

TOTAL 100%