

LAT 253-353.1T1: Latin Studies Abroad: The City of Rome in Roman Literature

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May Term 2001
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- Texts:** Required texts: to be distributed
Recommended: Charles E. Bennett. *New Latin Grammar*. Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 1998.
Charlton T. Lewis. *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995.
- Prerequisite:** For LAT 253: LAT 112 or equivalent;
For LAT 353: LAT 251 or equivalent
- Objectives:** This course will offer you an introduction to some of the most prominent writers of Roman literature (both poetry and prose), familiarity with a variety of archaeological sites of classical Rome, and first-hand insights into ancient life in *Roma aeterna*. In addition to literary, cultural, and historical material, the further development of your competency in Latin grammar and vocabulary will be stressed. LAT 253 and LAT 353 differ primarily in the degree of support through commentaries and instructor's guidance with the Latin texts.
- Requirements:** Meticulous preparation of class material
Regular and timely completion of homework assignments
Active participation
- Attendance:** You are expected to attend each class session and to contribute constructively to classroom and lab activities, both during our preparatory week on campus and on site in Italy.
- Evaluation:**
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| Class preparation and participation | 30 % |
| Quizzes | 20 % |
| On-site oral presentation | 25 % |
| Final paper | 25 % |
- Should you receive failing grades during this course or have trouble with any aspect of this class, you are encouraged to meet with me immediately.

Grading System:	90-100	A	70-75	C
	86-89	B+	66-69	D
	80-85	B	0-65	F
	76-79	C+		

Honor Code: The honor code will be firmly followed. While you are encouraged to work and study together with other students, all written work that you submit must be your own. Please refer to your student handbook for details regarding violations of the honor system.

Reasonable
Accommodation:

If you believe that you possess a disability for which reasonable accommodation is required, you must consult with me immediately after the first class meeting. You will then identify the nature of the disability and the reasonable accommodation requested. I will refer you to the office of the Dean of Students for evaluation, documentation of your disability, and a recommendation as to the accommodation, if any, to be provided.

If you do not consult with me and follow up at the office of the Dean of Students, as provided above, you will thereby waive any claim to a disability and the right to any accommodation pertaining thereto.

Course Outline:

LAT 253-353 is one of six courses to be offered in Mercer's Italy Institute in May/June 2001. It focuses on excerpts from a variety of classical Latin texts dealing with life in the city of Rome and on its outskirts. Topics range from Livy's account of the founding of Rome on the Palatine Hill to selections from Cicero's speeches delivered on the Roman Forum, from Juvenal's complaints about the excessive noise in the city to Horace's tribute to the Bandusian spring on his Sabine farm, and from Horace's description of a stroll on the Holy Street to Seneca's complaint about circus games. You will be asked to prepare an extensive passage for every class meeting. In class there will be ample opportunity for you to discuss your translation of the text and interpretation of the contents. You should keep a running list of new vocabulary. The special appeal of this course on Roman literature derives from the fusion of the classical texts with our physical presence at the place of their origin. Your understanding of the selected passages will be enhanced by your direct contact with the places, buildings, and artifacts described in the texts. From my own experience I know how instrumental study tours can be in sparking student interest in ancient materials and how the impressions gained on such a program may well last a lifetime.

Labs 1 through 8 are of special importance for LAT 253-353 as their topics relate most immediately to the contents of the Latin texts. Thus, the excerpts from Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* (Class Meeting 1) will be

brought to life by our visit to the Museum of Etruscan Art and the Palatine Hill. Our examination of the Marcellus Theater, the Ara Pacis, and the statue of Augustus of Prima Porta in the Vatican Museum will be vital for our understanding of the sections about the Romans' claim to power and their hope for peace and a new golden age in Book VI of Vergil's *Aeneid* (Class Meeting 2). The texts of Class Meeting 3 all relate to sites on the Roman Forum (speakers' platform, senate house, Holy Street) and the adjacent Capitoline Hill (Mamertine Prison). Our tours of the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus will reinforce two rather contradictory accounts of Roman circus games: Seneca's complete condemnation of such spectacles and Martial's epigrams composed on the occasion of the grand opening of the Colosseum (Class Meeting 4). The texts to be discussed in Class Meeting 5 concern themselves with the sites of our bus tour into the Alban mountains outside of Rome: Horace's *Odes* 3.13 praises the Bandusian spring on the grounds of his beloved Sabine Farm. We will also read a number of comments by other authors on the Sabine Farm, Cicero's farm at Tusculum (the present-day Frascati), and Alba Longa (the present-day Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of the Roman Catholic popes). In Class Meeting 6, our focus will be on the description of the Laocoon episode in *Aeneid* II and its representation in the Laocoon sculpture in the Vatican Museum. Our literary scavenger hunt will be rounded off by a discussion of texts about daily life in ancient Rome; it is my hope that through our three-week exposure to the cities of Rome and Florence we will gain the ability to better imagine what life in the Roman *subura* must have been like at the time of Horace, Persius, Martial, and Juvenal (Class Meeting 7).

All participants of the Italy Institute will meet on 27 April 2001 for an orientation session. At this time, the syllabi for all courses will be handed out. I will explain the course contents and objectives of LAT 253-353 and distribute the topics for the oral presentations and the final paper. In addition to careful preparation of all assigned Latin texts, each student will be asked to serve as an expert on one of the selected works and the accompanying lab topics. In that capacity students will lead one day's class discussion, give an oral presentation on-site during lab, and write a final paper about their topics. The paper should be five to seven pages long (not counting title page and bibliography) and follow MLA guidelines. At least two works of secondary literature should be quoted. The deadline for the paper is Friday, July 13, 2001. Please send it to my campus address either through campus mail or the U.S. postal service.

During the week of May 14 through 18 all participants of the Italy Institute will gather on the Macon campus for various mandatory introductory sessions. Apart from a general orientation, topics include the history of Rome, an introduction to art, and an introduction to maps and sites. In addition, the first class meeting for LAT 253-353, in which the students will report on their progress with their oral presentation projects,

has been scheduled for Thursday, May 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. In this session we will also start our reading of Latin texts, i.e., selected passages from Book I of Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* on the beginnings of Rome on the Palatine Hill. Further, we will read some of Livy's remarks on the Etruscan period and discuss them in view of the first lab in Rome, a visit to the Museum of Etruscan Art.

Tentative On-Site
Schedule:

Rome

Tuesday, May 22	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 2:</u> Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> VI.788-807 (Augustus as bringer of peace and a new golden age) and 851-86 (Rome's claim to power and eulogy of Marcellus, Augustus' deceased nephew and prospective heir)
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 1:</u> Museum of Etruscan Art
Wednesday, May 23	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 2:</u> Forum Boarium, Marcellus Theater, Tiber Island
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 3:</u> Capitoline Hill, Palatine Hill, Roman Forum
Thursday, May 24	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 3:</u> Opening passage of Cicero's First Catilinarian Speech; description of the Mamertine Prison (Sallust, <i>Bellum Catilinae</i> 55); Cicero's death and the exhibition of his severed head and hands on the platform (Livy, Fragment 120); the bore on the Holy Street (Horace, <i>Satires</i> I.9)
speakers'		
Friday, May 25	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 4:</u> Colosseum, Circus Maximus, Ara Pacis
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 5:</u> Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Cathedral
Tuesday, May 29	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 4:</u> Seneca, <i>Epistulae Morales</i> 7 (on the detrimental effects of circus games); selected epigrams from Martial, <i>Liber de Spectaculis</i> (celebrating the opening of the Colosseum under the Emperor Titus)
Wednesday, May 30	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 6:</u> Horace's Sabine Farm (bus tour)
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 7:</u> Tivoli, Tusculum/Frascati (Cicero), Alba Longa/Castel Gandolfo (bus tour)

Thursday, May 31	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 5:</u> Horace, <i>Odes</i> 3.13 (on the Bandusian spring); selected comments on the Sabine Farm, Tusculum and Alba Longa in the writings of Horace, Cicero, and other authors
Friday, June 1	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 8:</u> Vatican Museum (for LAT 253-353: focus on Laocoon sculpture and Augustus of Prima Porta statue)
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 9:</u> Architecture of Bernini and Boromini (wandering lab)
		<u>Florence</u>
Tuesday, June 5	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 6:</u> Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> II.199-233 (Laocoon episode)
Wednesday, June 6	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 10:</u> Academia
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 11:</u> Duomo, Baptistry, Duomo Museum
Thursday, June 7	TBA	<u>Class Meeting 7:</u> Living conditions in ancient Rome: Selected satirical texts from Horace, Persius, Martial, and Juvenal, all dealing with daily life in a congested, noisy, and dangerous city
Friday, June 8	8:30-12:00	<u>Lab 12:</u> Ponte Vecchio and surroundings (wandering lab)
	1:00-6:30	<u>Lab 13:</u> Uffizi Museum