

Spring Semester 2014  
TR 9:25-10:40  
100 Knight Hall  
Office Hours: MW 11-1, T 2-3,  
and by appointment

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## LAT 320.001: Comedy

This course provides students with an overview of the development of Roman comedy. The focus will be on a close reading of Plautus' *Aulularia* and Terence's *Phormio*. In addition, we will read in English translation some plays by the Greek author Menander, whose New Comedy became the model for Roman comedy. Molière's *L'Avare* and the hilarious Hollywood musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* will serve as examples of the influence Roman comedy has had on modern theater. In addition to these literary studies, students will complete a review of Latin grammar and strengthen their ability to translate original texts. They will also be exposed to some topics of Roman history and civilization.

### Texts and materials

Elaine M. Coury. *Phormio: A Comedy by Terence*. Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 1998.  
Gilbert Lawall and Betty Nye Quinn. *The Aulularia of Plautus*. White Plains, NY: Longman, 1988.

Plautus. *The Pot of Gold and Other Plays*. Trans. E. F. Watling. New York: Penguin, 1965.

Terence. *The Comedies*. Trans. Betty Radice. New York: Penguin, 1976.

Menander. *Plays and Fragments*. Trans. Norman Miller. New York: Penguin, 1987.

Molière. *The Miser and Other Plays*. Trans. John Wood and David Coward. New York: Penguin, 2000.

Anne Mahoney. *Essential Latin Grammar: Bennett's Grammar Revised*. Newburyport, MA: Focus, 2007. (The unrevised version of Charles Bennett's *A Latin Grammar* [1895] along with Allen and Greenough's *New Latin Grammar* [1903] is available on-line at [http://www.textkit.com/latin\\_grammar.php](http://www.textkit.com/latin_grammar.php).)

Charlton T. Lewis. *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. (Recommended)

### Objectives

Students at the advanced level of Latin study are expected to meet all the objectives described for the elementary and intermediate levels of instruction (see the departmental Web site:

[www.mercer.edu/fll/Elementary%20Latin.html](http://www.mercer.edu/fll/Elementary%20Latin.html) and

[www.mercer.edu/fll/Intermediate%20Latin.html](http://www.mercer.edu/fll/Intermediate%20Latin.html)), with the following advancements:

- Advanced competency in grammar
- Increased range of vocabulary (including poetic and technical terms)
- Ability to read and understand original Latin texts (both in prose and verse)
- Expertise in a variety of Latin authors and genres (in LAT 320 the comedies of Plautus and Terence)
- Overview of the history of Roman literature
- Knowledge of common metrical patterns (in LAT 320 primarily iambic and trochaic senarii, septenarii, and octonarii)
- Fundamental knowledge of Latin stylistics (in LAT 320 the stylistics of Roman comedy)
- Ability to translate sentences into Latin and to compose simple texts in Latin

### **Instructional methodology**

In this course, we will read extensive sections from Plautus' *Aulularia* and Terence's *Phormio* in the original Latin. You will be asked to prepare a 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 and make yourself flashcards for memorization. Since theater is really a spoken medium, we will spend some time on learning how to read out (and possibly also act out) the Latin verses. We will put some emphasis on a cursory review of Latin grammar on the basis of the Bennett grammar. In addition to the Latin readings, you will be assigned selected plays by Plautus, Terence, Menander, and Molière in English translation. Periodically, you may be asked to do some background reading and discuss your thoughts with the class.

### **Evaluation**

Two tests	25 %
Quizzes	10 %
Classroom performance	20 %
Written homework assignments	7.5 %
Midterm presentation and essay on Greco-Roman culture	10 %
Oral presentation	7.5 %
Term paper	20 %

While the first written test will focus on Plautus' *Aulularia*, the second one will be on Terence's *Phormio*. The quizzes will always be announced in the preceding class meeting and are predominantly on vocabulary and grammar.

Three times this semester you will receive a grade for your performance in the classroom. Each grade reflects your work and contributions over a number of weeks. Provisional dates are the end of the fourth week, the week before spring break, and the final week (see tentative class schedule). Students succeeding in this area will be prepared for every class (translations,

vocabulary, grammar, readings), make meaningful contributions to our class activities (plenary as well as group work), and ask questions about the class material.

Written homework will be assigned occasionally and in various fashions, such as grammar exercises, short essays, translations, and Latin compositions.

Before midterm, I will ask you to choose a relevant topic from Greco-Roman culture and civilization for a brief in-class presentation and subsequent submission in the form of a three-to-five-page essay. You should draw information from published printed scholarly books or articles. If you choose to rely on materials published on the Internet, it is your responsibility to scrutinize them for academic quality and accuracy. To avoid plagiarism, you must acknowledge all ideas that are not your own, no matter whether you quote your source verbatim, paraphrase, or summarize.

Toward the end of the term, you will select a topic of interest to you from Republican prose and do extensive research. You will have the chance to present your ideas orally to the class and receive feedback. You will then produce a five-to-seven-page term paper (not counting title page and bibliography), following the MLA guidelines. You should quote and critically engage at least two works of secondary literature. With regard to acceptable secondary sources and citation, the same rules apply as described above for the culture presentation and essay. The deadline for the paper is noon on Monday, April 28, 2014. Please bring a printed copy to my office—I will not accept papers sent by e-mail.

After spring break, I will ask each student in the class to come to a mandatory one-on-one conference to my office. We will try to fit as many of these *colloquia Latina* as possible into our regular class hour, but some of you may have to schedule the meeting later during the day. The purpose of this conference is to give you an assessment of your progress in the class and to plan ahead for the remainder of the semester. Please bring Test 1 to the meeting. Of course, I strongly encourage every participant to come to talk to me frequently outside of class and this conference.

Students receiving failing grades during this course or students having trouble with any aspect of this class are encouraged to meet with me, either during regular office hours or by appointment.

## Course policies

Prerequisite: LAT 251 or consent of instructor

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 activities. Should you miss more than three class sessions for any reason, one point will be deducted from your total average for each session missed. This policy is independent of any absences that are officially approved by the University, such as for athletic events, field trips, and extended medical leave. Under no circumstances will you receive a passing grade for this course if you miss more than fifty percent of the class meetings.

Late exams and assignments: All exams and assignments are due when indicated. Late submission of homework and make-up tests and quizzes will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor for cases of duly documented personal or family emergency. Except for cases of prolonged illness, make-up tests or quizzes must be taken before the class meeting at which I return the original exams to the class. If you miss a test or quiz, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately and set up a date for a make-up exam. I reserve the right to take five points off the score for every day past the original exam date or deadline. There will be no extra credit work or rewrites.

<u>Grading scale:</u>	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 or with tutors, all written work that you submit must be your own. Please refer to the *Lair* (student handbook; see at <http://studentaffairs.mercer.edu/studentaffairs/resources/upload/Lair-11-12-FINAL-with-revisions-2.pdf>) for details regarding violations of the honor system.

Accommodation of disability: Students requiring accommodations for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. The instructor will refer you to the ACCESS and Accommodation Office to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/Section 504 and to request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic transcripts. In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the ACCESS Coordinator. A new form must be requested each semester. Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the ACCESS and Accommodation Office and request a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information, please contact Carole Burrowbridge, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the ACCESS and Accommodation Office website at <http://www.mercer.edu/disabilityservices>.

Electronic submission rule: Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically to a professor are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by the professor. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. Faculty members are encouraged, but not required, to acknowledge receipt of the assignment.

Cell phone usage: Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom, lab, or formal academic or performance event.

End-of-semester course evaluation: In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of instruction, each student enrolled in this course is required to complete an end-of-semester course evaluation, to be administered during the last week of class. Students failing to submit the evaluation by Friday, April 25, 2014, will be assigned the grade of “Incomplete,” which will automatically turn into an “F” if the evaluation is not submitted by the midterm of fall semester 2014.

### **Tentative class schedule**

January	7	T	Course introduction; Greek comedy; Roman drama
	9	R	<i>Aulularia</i>
	10	F	Last day to drop the course
	14	T	<i>Aulularia</i> ; Menander, <i>Old Cantankerous</i>
	16	R	<i>Aulularia</i>
	21	T	<i>Aulularia</i> ; Menander, <i>The Girl from Samos</i>
	23	T	<i>Aulularia</i>
	28	T	<i>Aulularia</i> ; Plautus, <i>The Pot of Gold</i>
	30	R	<i>Aulularia</i> ; culture presentation; <b>grade 1 for classroom performance</b>
	February	4	T
6		R	<i>Aulularia</i> ; culture presentation
11		T	<i>Aulularia</i> ; Plautus, <i>The Swaggering Soldier</i> ; culture presentation
13		R	<i>Aulularia</i> ; culture presentation
18		T	<i>Aulularia</i> ; culture presentation; Molière, <i>The Miser</i>
20		R	<b>Test 1 (Plautus)</b>
25		T	Plautus, <i>Pseudolus</i> ; Musical: <i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum</i>
27	R	Musical: <i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum</i>	
March	4	T	<i>Phormio</i> ; <b>grade 2 for classroom performance</b>
	6	R	[No class]
	10-14		[Spring Break]

	18	T	<i>Phormio</i> ; Terence, <i>Phormio</i>
	20	R	<i>Colloquia Latina</i> (student-teacher conferences); last day for course withdrawal
	25	T	<i>Phormio</i> ; Terence, <i>The Girl from Andros</i>
	27	R	<i>Phormio</i>
April	1	T	<i>Phormio</i> ; Terence, <i>The Eunuch</i>
	3	R	<i>Phormio</i>
	8	T	<i>Phormio</i>
	10	R	[No class]
	15	T	<b>Test 2 (Terence)</b>
	17	R	Student presentations
	22	T	Student presentations
	24	R	Student presentations; <b>grade 3 for classroom performance</b>
	28	M	<b>Term paper due (noon)</b>