

LAT 312: The Age of Cicero

Term 4 Fall 2019

Dr. Nick Wagner
College Hall 103
email: nwagner@cornellcollege.edu
Phone: 319-895-4421

Class meetings: M-F 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Office hours: M,W 3:30-4:30 pm, and by appointment

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:

This course supports Cornell College's **Educational Priorities and Outcomes** with emphases on Communication, Intercultural Literacy, Knowledge, Inquiry, and Reasoning

Students will apply their understanding of Latin grammar and syntax to become more fluent in reading, speaking, and writing Latin by reading a representative sampling of Cicero's letters and philosophical works, and Lucretius' philosophical works. (Knowledge, Communication)

Students will become familiar with the historical, cultural, and literary background to the philosophical movement in Rome, and broadly the Age of Cicero, by using research tools such as lexica, prosopographies, handbooks of literary terms, etc. (Knowledge, Inquiry, Reasoning)

Students will learn to read Cicero's and Lucretius' works aloud and to appreciate the aural dimension in understanding Roman philosophy and poetry. (Communication, Inquiry)

Students will read secondary literature to understand how the works of Cicero and Lucretius relate to each other, the Age of Cicero, and the modern world (Inquiry, Reasoning, Intercultural Literacy)

Students are to become more expert in recognizing the characteristics and effects of multiple literacies by creating presentations comparing Cicero's and Lucretius' philosophies with more recent examples (Communication, Vocation).

Required Texts:

Cicero. 2009. *The Republic and The Laws*. Niall Rudd (transl.). Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0199540112.

Stevens, John A. 2002. *M. Tulli Ciceronis Somnium Scipionis*. Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries. Bryn Mawr Commentaries. ISBN 978-0929524979. [found in Book VI of the *de Re Publica*]

Kenney, E.J. 2014. *Lucretius De Rerum Natura, Book III*, Second Edition. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0929524979.

Lucretius. 2009. *On the Nature of the Universe*, Melville, Ronald, transl. Oxford University Press. Oxford. ISBN 978-0199555147.

Optional Texts:

Zetzel, James E.G. 1998. *Cicero De Re Publica, Selections*. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0521348966. [Contains all of *de Re Publica*, which includes the entire *Somnium Scipionis*]

Leonard, William Ellery, and Stanley Barney Smith (eds.). *De Rerum Natura: The Latin Text of Lucretius (Latin and English Edition)*. University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN 978-0299003647. [Contains all of *De Rerum Natura*]

Grading:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Article Reports (2)	10% each
Essay	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

For more details about each grade category, see below and/or additional documents.

Attendance and Participation:

Since this is a language course, and given how quickly we will be covering some readings, attendance is vital to your progress in the course. That being said, I know that some absences are unavoidable. Please let me know as soon as possible so that I can work with you on making up whatever material was missed.

Daily meetings will have three primary components:

- 1) Grammar and Review, which will include practice writing in Latin, reviewing grammatical terms and usage, learning and studying rhetorical devices, and becoming more familiar with some research techniques;
- 2) Reading Cicero/Lucretius in Latin, analyzing the texts on a detailed level, discussing how each text is operating word-by-word and sentence-by-sentence, including aural considerations;

3) Discussing the Age of Cicero, particularly by focusing on Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis*, part of his larger *de Re Publica*, and Lucretius' *de Rerum Natura*. We will discuss not only the philosophical arguments expressed in these works, but also the sources of each, what we can learn from this evidence, and how the works relate to the modern world.

- We will base these discussions on a number of articles that are often associated with the Latin text for the day. The Article Reports will also fuel our discussions. We will, of course, discuss other topics that may be of interest to the group.

You will be expected to come to class with questions on the material for that day. These could be about the Latin we read (maybe a sentence was confusing or maybe you want to discuss a particular passage) or about the English readings. I ask that you email me your questions by 11:59pm, the night before class.

Exam:

There will be two exams over the course of the term. The midterm exam will be on the Thursday of Week 2 (December 5); the Final Exam will be on the last day of class (December 18). They will consist of translation, parsing, identification of rhetorical devices, and a short essay.

Article Reports:

You will have two article reports over the course of the term. Each report will be 2-3 pages, typed and double-spaced (12pt. font, Times New Roman, etc.). You will also be responsible for your article to help with discussion of the texts. In class, you will be expected to facilitate discussion, answer questions about the article, etc. Your written report will be both a summary and assessment of the article; you are free to provide other commentary as it pertains to our discussions. These reports are intended to help with your final project, though you may work on different topics if you choose.

Essay:

The essay is intended to be based on the articles that you choose for your Article Report. Of course, you might find, once you start reading the articles, that you no longer find that topic interesting. This happens! In that case, we can find an alternative topic for your essay.

Once you choose your topic, you will write a 6-8 page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, etc.). You are free to choose between two approaches to this paper. 1) It can be a brief report on the topic you have chosen, with a combination of analysis and criticism. For example, if you choose to write on how Lucretius constructed his argument against an afterlife, you can outline various ways that scholars have attempted to answer that question, followed by any criticism you might have of what you found. 2) The other approach is more traditional. You will attempt to answer your own question. Using the same example, you will still research to see what others have said about Lucretius' response to the idea of an afterlife, only now you will attempt to present your own case or interpretation. These two approaches to the paper have more in common than it might seem; the first involves more research but the second involves a creative interpretation.

Academic Honesty

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty" and [here](#).

Disability Resources

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see [here](#).

Counseling Center

The Cornell College Counseling Center is designed to help students develop effective problem-solving and decision-making capabilities, in order to make satisfying life choices and maximize their capacity for continued emotional growth. As part of this we wanted to make it easy for students to gain access to the resources they may find the most helpful, including contacting the Student Health Center or Office of Student Affairs or finding out more about sexual assault and much more [here](#).

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Class</u>	<u>Homework</u> (to be done for that day)	<u>Important Deadlines</u>
11/18	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion about Roman philosophy</p>	For the afternoon: Latin review	
11/19		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 2.1-6</p> <p>English: Zetzel "Introduction," pp. 1-34 [on Moodle]</p> <p><i>de Re Publica</i> Book 1 [in English]</p>	
11/20		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 2.7-14</p> <p>English: Gallagher 2001 "Metaphor in Cicero's <i>De Re Publica</i>" [on Moodle]</p> <p><i>Republic</i> Book 2 [in English]</p>	Article Report 1
11/21		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 2.15-20</p> <p>English: <i>Republic</i> Books 3-6; Plutarch <i>Life of Cicero</i> [on Moodle]</p>	
11/22		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 6.9-12</p> <p>English: Coleman, R. 1964. "The Dream of Cicero," in <i>P.C.Ph.S.</i> 190: pp. 1-14.</p> <p>Optional: Beard "Cicero and divination: the formation of Latin discourse" [on Moodle]</p>	Article Report 2

12/2		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 6.13-17</p> <p>English: Sharples “Cicero’s Republic and Greek Political Theory” [on Moodle]</p>	Article Report 3
12/3		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 6.18-22</p> <p>English: Schofield, M. 1995. “Cicero’s Definition of <i>Res Publica</i>” [on Moodle]</p>	Article Report 4
12/4		<p>Latin: Cicero <i>de Re Publica</i> 6.23-29</p> <p>English: Cole 2006 “Cicero, Ennius, and the Concept of Apotheosis at Rome” [on Moodle]</p>	
12/5	<p>Review Discussion about Cicero and Roman Philosophy</p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>	<p>Study for Midterm</p> <p>Cicero, <i>Fam.</i> 5.12; <i>Q. fr.</i> 2.10, 3.5 [English only; on Moodle]</p>	Midterm Exam
12/6		<p>Latin: Lucretius <i>DRN</i> 1.1-50</p> <p>English: Kenney “Introduction” [in Textbook] <i>On the Nature of Things</i> Book 1 [English]</p>	
12/9		<p>Latin: Lucretius <i>DRN</i> 1.51-100</p> <p>English: Gale “Lucretius and previous poetic traditions,” in Hardie and Gillespie 2007 [on Moodle]</p> <p><i>On the Nature of Things</i> Book 2 [English]</p>	Article Report 5

12/10		<p>Latin: Lucretius DRN 1.101-150</p> <p>English: Asmis 2007. "Lucretius' Venus and Stoic Zeus" [on Moodle]</p> <p><i>On the Nature of Things</i> Books 3 [English]</p>	Article Report 6
12/11		<p>Latin: Lucretius DRN 3.1-58</p> <p>English: Mitsis "Epicurus on Death and the Duration of Life" [on Moodle]</p> <p><i>On the Nature of Things</i> Book 4 [English]</p>	Article Report 7
12/12		<p>Latin: Lucretius DRN 3.59-135</p> <p>English: <i>On the Nature of Things</i> Books 5-6 [English]</p>	
12/13		<p>Latin: Lucretius <i>DRN</i> 3.136-176; 3.417-424</p> <p>English: McConnell, S. "Lucretius and Civil Strife" [on Moodle]</p>	Article Report 8
12/16		<p>Latin: Lucretius <i>DRN</i> 3.425-486</p> <p>English: Zetzel 1998, "<i>De re publica</i> and <i>De rerum natura</i>" [on Moodle]</p> <p>Fowler 2007 "Lucretian Conclusions" [on Moodle]</p>	
12/17	Presentations	<p>Latin: Lucretius <i>DRN</i> 3.670-712; 3.769-783</p>	Paper Presentations
12/18	Final Exam	Study for the Final	<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Paper Due 5pm</p>

Article Reports:

Cicero:

#1 Gallagher, R. L. 2001. "Metaphor in Cicero's *De Re Publica*," in *The Classical Quarterly* NS 51.2: pp. 509-19.

#2 Coleman, R. 1964. "The Dream of Cicero," in *P.C.Ph.S.* 190: pp. 1-14.

#3 Sharples, R.W. 1986. "Cicero's *Republic* and Greek Political Theory," in *Polis* 5.2: pp. 30-50.

#4 Schofield, M. 1995. "Cicero's Definition of *Res Publica*," in J. G. F. Powell, ed. *Cicero the Philosopher*. Oxford: pp. 63-83.

Lucretius:

#5 Gale, M. 2007. "Lucretius and previous poetic traditions," in *The Cambridge Companion to Lucretius*. Cambridge: pp. 59-75.

#6 Asmis, E. 2007. "Lucretius' Venus and Stoic Zeus," in Gale 2007: pp. 88-103.

#7 Mitsis, P. 1988. "Epicurus on Death and the Duration of Life," in the *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy* 4.1: pp. 303-322.

#8 McConnell, S. 2012. "Lucretius and Civil Strife," in *Phoenix* 66: pp. 97-121.

Additional Bibliography:

[NB: Not all of these references neatly cover the two texts that we are reading, but they do address the author and something relevant to our discussions. Many of these are accessible via Cole Library.]

Amory, A. 1969. "*Obscura de re lucida carmina*: Science and poetry in *De Rerum Natura*," in *YCS* 21: pp. 145-168.

Asmis, Elizabeth. 2005. "A New Kind of Model: Cicero's Roman Constitution in *De Republica*," *American Journal of Philology* 126: pp. 377-416.

Baraz, Y. 2012. *A Written Republic: Cicero's Philosophical Politics*. Princeton University Press.

Beard, M. 1986. "Cicero and divination: the formation of Latin discourse," in *JRS* 76: pp. 33-46.

- Bendlin, A. 2000. "Looking beyond the civic compromise: religious pluralism in late republican Rome," in Bispham and Smith 2000: pp. 115-135.
- Bispham, E. and C. Smith (eds.). 2000. *Religion in Archaic and Republican Rome and Italy*. Edinburgh.
- Butler, Shane. 2002. *The Hand of Cicero*. Routledge. London.
- Catto, Bonnie A. 1988. "Venus and Natura in Lucretius: "De Rerum Natura" 1.1–23 and 2.167–74," in *The Classical Journal* 84: pp. 97–104.
- Clay, D. 1984. *Lucretius and Epicurus*. Cornell.
- Cole, S. 2006. "Cicero, Ennius, and the Concept of Apotheosis at Rome," in *Arethusa* 39.3: pp. 531-548.
- Cole, S. 2013. *Cicero and The Rise of Deification at Rome*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.
- Coleman, R. 1964. "The Dream of Cicero," in *P.C.Ph.S.* 190: pp. 1-14.
- Connoly, J. 2007. *The State of Speech: Rhetoric and Political Thought in Ancient Rome*. Princeton.
- Fantham, E. 1973. "Aequabilitas in Cicero's political theory, and the Greek tradition of proportional justice," in *CQ* 23: pp. 285-90.
- Fox, M. 2007. *Cicero's Philosophy of History*. Oxford.
- Gale, M. 1994. *Myth and Poetry in Lucretius*. Cambridge.
- Gale, Monica R. 2001. *Lucretius and the Didactic Epic*. Bristol Classical Press.
- Gale, M. (ed.). 2007. *Oxford Readings in Lucretius*. Oxford.
- Gallagher, Robert L. 2001. "Metaphor in Cicero's *De Re Publica*," *The Classical Quarterly* NS 51.2: pp. 509-19.
- Gildenhard, I. 2007. *Paideia Romana: Cicero's Tusculan Disputations*. Cambridge.
- Greenblatt, Stephen. 2011. *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*. W. W. Norton & Company. New York.
- Hardie, P. and S. Gillespie (eds.). 2007. *The Cambridge Companion to Lucretius*. Cambridge.
- Harris, W.V. 2003. "Roman attitudes about the truthfulness of dreams," in *JRS* 93: pp. 18-34.

- Johnson, M. & C. Wilson. 2007. "Lucretius and the history of science," in Gale 2007: pp. 131-148.
- Kennedy, D. 2012. *Rethinking Reality: Lucretius and the Textualization of Nature*. Studies in Literature and Science. Michigan.
- Lintott, Andrew. 2008. *Cicero as Evidence: A Historian's Companion*. Oxford University Press. New York.
- May, James (ed.). 2002. *Brill's Companion to Cicero: Oratory and Rhetoric*. Brill.
- McConnell, S. 2012. "Lucretius and Civil Strife," in *Phoenix* 66: pp. 97-121.
- Minyard, J.D. 1985. *Lucretius and the Late Republic: An Essay in Roman Intellectual History*. Leiden.
- Mitchell, T. 1991. *Cicero: The Senior Statesman*. London.
- Mitsis, P. 1988. "Epicurus on Death and the Duration of Life," in the *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy* 4.1: pp. 303-322.
- Robb, M.A. 2010. *Beyond Populares and Optimates: Political Language in the Late Republic*. *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte*. Franz Steiner Verlag. Stuttgart.
- Schofield, Malcolm. 1995. "Cicero's Definition of *Res Publica*," in J. G. F. Powell, ed. *Cicero the Philosopher*. Oxford: pp. 63-83.
- Sedley, D. 1998. *Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom*. Cambridge.
- Sedley, D. 2007. "The Empedoclean Opening," in Gale 2007: pp. 48-87.
- Sharples, R.W. 1986. "Cicero's *Republic* and Greek Political Theory," in *Polis* 5.2: pp. 30-50.
- Stahl, William. 1962. *Roman Science: Origins, Development, and Influence to the Later Middle Ages*. University of Wisconsin Press.
- Wallace-Hadrill, A. 2008. *Rome's Cultural Revolution*. Cambridge
- Wood, N. 1988. *Cicero's Social and Political Thought*. University of California Press.
- Zarecki, Jonathan. 2014. *Cicero's Ideal Statesman in Theory and Practice*. London.
- Zetzel, J.E.G. 1998. "De re publica and De rerum natura" in *Style and Tradition: studies in Honor of Wendell Clausen*, ed. P.E. Know and C. Foss. Stuttgart and Leipzig: pp. 230-247.