LATIN EPIGRAPHY

LAT 181-01

Fall 2010

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Office hours (Eaton 331):
Mon. & Thurs. 3-4 pm
Tues. 6-7 pm
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SYLLABUS

This course will introduce students to the challenges of reading Latin texts preserved as inscriptions upon stone and will introduce Roman inscriptions as a critical source for aspects of Roman history and society that do not otherwise survive. It is an advanced Latin course whose goal is to practice and develop skills to read significant examples of Latin epigraphs, and to use modern techniques for encoding inscriptions and building digital corpora:

- Latin epigraphy and its contribution to linguistic and cultural knowledge. This part of the course will focus on characteristics and purposes of this discipline, addressing topics such as:
  - development of Latin epigraphy in modern times; formation of epigraphic collections; the work of the epigraphists who discover and decipher inscriptions;
  - alphabet, writing and texts of Latin epigraphs; classification of inscriptions according to their content and language (sacred and sepulchral inscriptions, public and private inscriptions, calendars, etc.);
  - relationship between Latin epigraphy and other disciplines, such as history, philology, archaeology, and numismatics; difference between epigraphical and literary sources; contribution of Latin epigraphy to our knowledge of Roman language, history, society, religion, and law.
Ancient Latium as a source book for reading and transcribing inscriptions. More than 5,000 epigraphs come from the so called Latium Vetus, by which the Romans meant the oldest part of Latium. During the course will be translated and commented a selection of inscriptions from this important collection, which is fundamental to know one of the most important region of the ancient world, located in modern Italy around Colli Albani and Campagna Romana.

Epigraphic documents and the World Wide Web. The course is meant also to teach modern tools for transcribing and preserving inscriptions in a digital environment. Particular attention will be given to EpiDoc, an international project for encoding inscriptions in XML.

BLACKBOARD

The course syllabus, class handouts, assignments, office hours, and other announcements will be posted on the “Latin Epigraphy” Blackboard site.

* The syllabus is subject to change: Please, check it on line every week on the Blackboard site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

1) Assigned weekly readings.
2) Preparation for attendance and participation in seminar discussions.
3) Weekly journaling exercises of roughly two pages double-spaced that engage with two or more of the readings critically. Please email your paper directly to the instructor. Journals are due by 10PM on the Sunday before class.
4) Two powerpoint presentations of 20 minutes.
5) Midterm examination (Wednesday, November 3).
6) Final examination.

Attendance, preparation, and participation  20%
Weekly journaling exercises  20%
Powerpoint presentations  20%
Midterm examination  20%
Final examination  20%

Total  100%

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS

Textbook:

Lawrence Keppie, Understanding Roman Inscriptions, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991) (Students should have a copy of this paper textbook, available at the University Bookstore)
Other Readings:

John Bodel, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001) (copies of readings from this book will be given to the students during classes)

* Other texts and ancient sources will be given to the students during classes and posted on the course Blackboard site (see “Slides” and “Readings”).

**TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1. *Why Latin Epigraphy? Introduction to the course*
   
   WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
   

2. *History of Latin Epigraphy*
   
   MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
   

3. *Recording and Publication*
   
   WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
   
   

4. *What is a Latin Inscription?*
   
   MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
   

5. *Writing an Inscription*
   
   WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
   

6. *The Epigraphist at Work*
   
   MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
   

7. *Roman Names*
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

8. *Cursus Honorum*
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

9. *Reading Latin Inscriptions*
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6
*CIL* X 6087 (The Mausoleum of Lucius Munatius Plancus)
*CIL* XIV 292 (The Sarcophagus of Marcus Annius Proculus)
*CIL* VI 9732 (Tombstone for Psamate)
*CIL* VI 6087 (Tombstone for Italia)

10. *Sacred Inscriptions*
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11
*Livy* 6.29.9 (The Dedication of Titus Quinctius Cincinnatus to Juppiter)
Pliny, *Natural History* 7.97 (The Dedication of Pompey the Great to Minerva)

11. *Sepulchral Inscriptions*
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13
*CIL* VI 1958 (Tomb of Eurysaces the Baker)
*CIL* VI 1374 (Pyramid of Caius Cestius)
*CIL* I^2^ 834 (Tomb of Caius Poplicius Bibulus)

12. *Honorary Inscriptions*
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18
*CIL* I^2^ 721 (Dedication to Sulla by the Vicus Laci Fundani)
*CIL* VI 960 (Column of Trajan inscription)

13. *Honorary Inscriptions*
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20
*CIL* XI 365 (The Arch of Augustus in Rimini)
*CIL* V 7231 (The Arch of Augustus in Susa)
Pliny, *Natural History* 3.136 (The Victory Monument of the Alps)
*CIL* IX 5894 (The Arch of Trajan in Ancona)

14. Public Inscriptions
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

15. Instrumentum domesticum
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

* Friday, October 29, 2:00 pm: *Visit to the Musem of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA)*

16. Christian Inscriptions
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1
*ILCV* II 2921 (Epitaph of a Christian child)
*ILCV* II 3058A (Epitaph of three Christians)
*ILCV* II 2650 (Epitaph of a Christian boy)
*ILCV* II 1469 (Epitaph of Maxima)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 – MIDTERM EXAM

17. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Pliny, *Natural History* 3.56-59 (Old Latium and Extension of Latium); 3.68-69 (towns and Alban peoples of Latium)

18. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus and EDR
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

19. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Francisca Feraudi-Gruénais, 'An Inventory of the Main Electronic Archives of
20. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
CIL XIV 2147 (Lanuvium, funerary inscription, 1st-2nd century AD)
EE IX 632 (Lanuvium, funerary inscription, 2nd century AD)
AE 1955, 188 (Lanuvium, funerary inscription, 3rd century AD)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Hugh Cayless - Charlotte Roueché - Tom Elliott - Gabriel Bodard, 'Epigraphy in 2017', in Digital Humanities Quarterly, 2009 v3n1

22. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29
EpiDoc: Guidelines for Structured Markup of Epigraphic Texts in XML

23. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1
Charlotte Tupman, 'Contextual Epigraphy and XML: Digital Publication and its Application to the Study of Inscribed Funerary Monuments', in Gabriel Bodard & Simon Mahony (eds.), Digital Research in the Study of Classical Antiquity, Ashgate (Farnham and Burlington 2010), pp. 73-86

24. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6
Inscriptions of Aphrodisias Project (InsAph)
Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica (IRCyr)
The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania (IRT)

25. Conclusions
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8
Lawrence Keppie, Understanding Roman Inscriptions, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 30-35 and 125-134

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 – FINAL EXAM
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm (Eaton 202)