LAT 0181-01: LATIN EPIGRAPHY

Syllabus

Class Meetings - EATN 123
Monday 4:30-5:45 pm
Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm

Course Instructor
Monica Berti
Department of Classics - 326 Eaton Hall
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Office Hours
Tuesday 12:00-3:00 pm; or by appointment
Eaton 326

Textbook
LAWRENCE KEPPIE, Understanding Roman Inscriptions, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991)
ISBN 0801843529

Other Readings and Texts
JOHN BODEL, Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions, Routledge (London and New York 2001)
ISBN 0415116244 (copies of readings from this book will be given to the students during classes)
ISBN 052154954X (copies of readings from this book will be given to the students during classes)

* Other readings and texts listed in the syllabus will be given to the students during classes and posted on the course Trunk site (https://trunk.tufts.edu).

Course Description
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 stones according to their content and language (sacred and sepulchral inscriptions, public and private inscriptions, juridical epigraphy, calendars, etc.).
  - The 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 regions 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.

Course Requirements and Expectations
- Preparation for attendance and participation in seminar discussions.
- Assigned Readings: to be read before class.
- Assigned Texts: to be read and translated in class with the instructor.
- Written assignments: weekly journaling exercises of roughly two pages double-spaced that engage with one of the Readings and/or Texts read in class during the week. A printed copy of the journal is due on Monday before class.
- One powerpoint presentation of 20 minutes. The aim of the powerpoint presentation is to analyze the text of one inscription with translation into English and brief commentary, and to discuss it in class with the instructor and the other students.

N.B. Written assignments that are submitted late will be penalized one-half letter grade per day late.

Examinations
- Midterm Examination (Monday, March 11)
- Final Examination (Monday, April 29)

Topics and Reading Assignments

WEEK ONE

1. Why Latin Epigraphy? Introduction to the Course
   WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
   Text: The “altar of the scribes” (Rome, Terme di Diocleziano)

WEEK TWO

2. History of Latin Epigraphy
   WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23
   Text: CIL 12.1 (the Lapis Niger in the Roman Forum)

WEEK THREE

3. Recording and Publication
   MONDAY, JANUARY 28
   Text: CIL 6.3747 (honorary inscription for an emperor)
4. What is a Latin inscription?
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
Text: *CIL* 10.7296 = *IG* 14.297 (a bilingual shop-sign from Palermo)

**WEEK FOUR**

5. Writing an Inscription
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Texts: *CIL* 1.2833 (dedication to Castor and Pollux); *AE* 1985, 70 (funerary inscription for Claudia Florentia Secundina).

6. The Epigraphist at Work
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Text: *CIL* 11.4170 (a local dating system at Interamna Nahars, Terni - Umbria)

**WEEK FIVE**

7. Roman Names
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Text: *CIL* 6.1274 (the tomb of Caecilia Metella)

8. *Cursus honorum*
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Texts: *CIL* 1.6-7; 6.1284-1285 (Scipionic sarcophagus with epitaph)

**WEEK SIX**

9. Reading Latin Inscriptions
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Texts: *CIL* 10.6087 (the mausoleum of Lucius Munatius Plancus); *CIL* 14.292 (the sarcophagus of Marcus Annius Proculus); *CIL* 6.9732 (tombstone for Psamate); *CIL* 6.9980 (tombstone for Italia)

10. Sacred Inscriptions
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Texts: *CIL* 11.139 (the tombstone of Publius Longidienus in Ravenna); Livy 6.29.9 (the dedication of Titus Quinctius Cincinnatus to Jupiter); Pliny, *Natural History* 7.97 (the dedication of Pompey the Great to Minerva)

### WEEK SEVEN

#### 11. Sepulchral Inscriptions

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25**


**Texts:** *CIL* 6.1958 (tomb of Eurysaces the baker); *CIL* 6.1374 (Pyramid of Caius Cestius); *CIL* 1.22.834 (monument of Caius Poplicius Bibulus)

#### 12. Honorary Inscriptions

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**


**Texts:** *CIL* 1.2.721 (dedication to Sulla by the Vicus Laci Fundani); *CIL* 6.960 (column of Trajan inscription)

### WEEK EIGHT

#### 13. Honorary Inscriptions

**MONDAY, MARCH 4**

**Texts:** *CIL* 11.365 (the Arch of Augustus in Rimini); *CIL* 5.7231 (the Arch of Augustus in Susa); Pliny, *Natural History* 3.136 (the Victory Monument of the Alps); *CIL* 9.5894 (the Arch of Trajan in Ancona)

#### 14. Public Inscriptions

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**


**Texts:** *CIL* 1.2.751; 6.1305 (the Fabricius bridge in Rome); *CIL* 6.945 (the Arch of Titus in Rome)

### WEEK NINE

#### 15. MIDTERM EXAMINATION - MONDAY, MARCH 11

#### 16. *Instrumentum domesticum*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**


**Texts:** *CIL* 1.2.3 (Fibula Praenestina); *CIL* 6.2146 (toll exemption for a vestal); *CIL* 6.36964 (toll exemption for Galla Placidia); *CIL* 9.6086.4 and 9.6086.6.42 (*glandes plumbeae*); *CIL* 11.6721.16 (*glandes plumbeae*); *CIL* 11.6721.17b (*glandes plumbeae*); *CIL* 15.262.3 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.263 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.269 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.7241 (lead water-pipe); *CIL* 15.7497 (lead water-pipe); *CIL* 15.7567 (lead water-pipe)
WEEK TEN

17. Christian Inscriptions
MONDAY, MARCH 25
Texts: ILCV 2.2921 (epitaph of a Christian child); ILCV 2.3058A (epitaph of three Christians); ILCV 2.2650 (epitaph of a Christian boy); ILCV 2.1469 (epitaph of Maxima)

18. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
Texts: Pliny, Natural History 3.56-59 (Old Latium and extension of Latium); 3.68-69 (towns and Alban peoples of Latium)

WEEK ELEVEN

19. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus and EDR
MONDAY, APRIL 1
Texts: CIL 14.2898 (Praeneste, altar to the Pax Augusta); CIL 14.2899 (Praeneste, altar to the Securitas Augusta)

20. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
Texts: CIL 14.2147; EE 9.632; AE 1955, 188 (funerary inscriptions from Lanuvium)

WEEK TWELVE

21. The inscriptions of Latium Vetus
MONDAY, APRIL 8
Texts: Granino 1994 (Praeneste, funerary inscription for the catella Aeolis); Granino 1995 (Tibur, funerary inscription for the navarchus C. Iulius Hilarus)

22. The inscriptions of Latium Vetus
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
Texts: Crea 2006 (funerary inscriptions from the Albanum Domitiani); Granino 2000 (dedications to Diana Nemorensis)

WEEK THIRTEEN

23. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
Texts: Inscriptions of the Republic Tombs in Via Statilia, Rome
WEEK FOURTEEN

24. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML
MONDAY, APRIL 22
Texts: Inscriptions of Aphrodisias Project (InsAph); Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica (IRCyr); The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania (IRT)

25. Conclusions
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
Reading: L. Keppie, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 30-35 (The survival of Roman inscriptions) and 125-134 (The later Roman empire. Conclusions: the value of Roman inscriptions)

WEEK FIFTEEN

26. FINAL EXAMINATION - MONDAY, APRIL 29